Until Death do us Part
4
Story: Hiroshi Takashige
Art: DOUBLE-S

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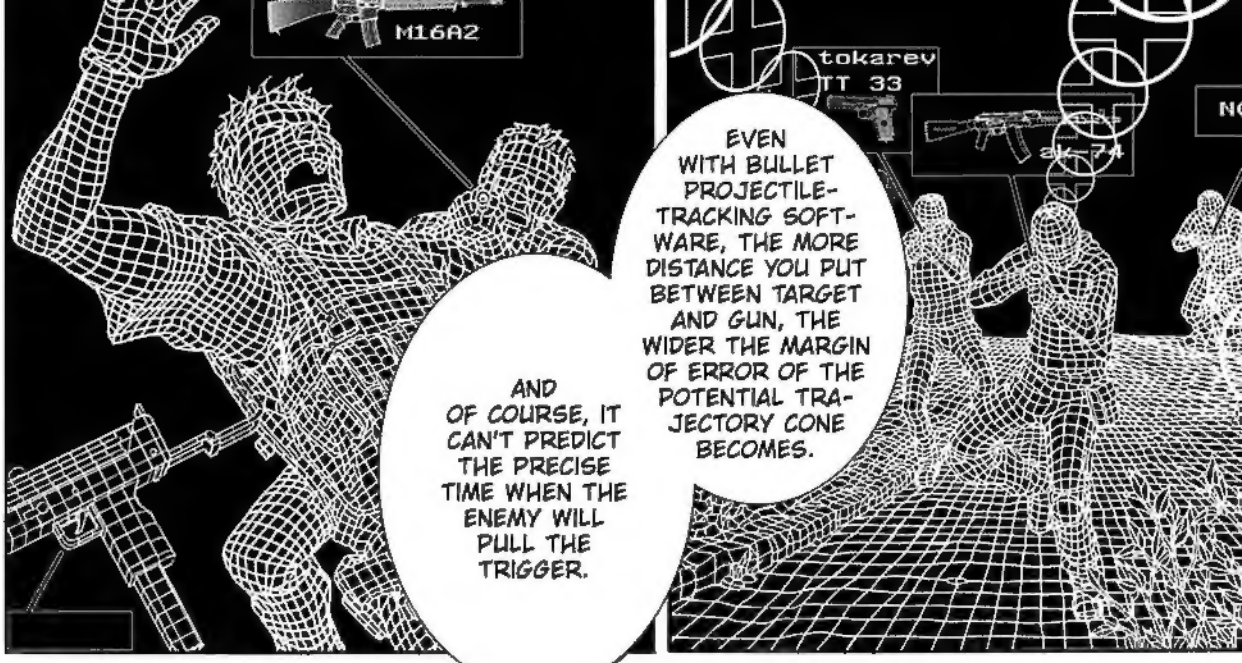
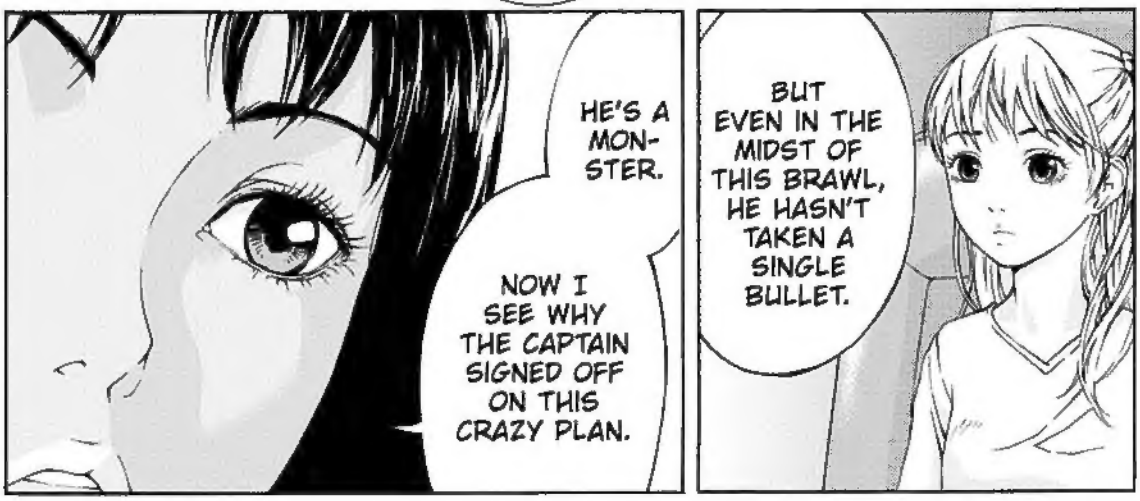
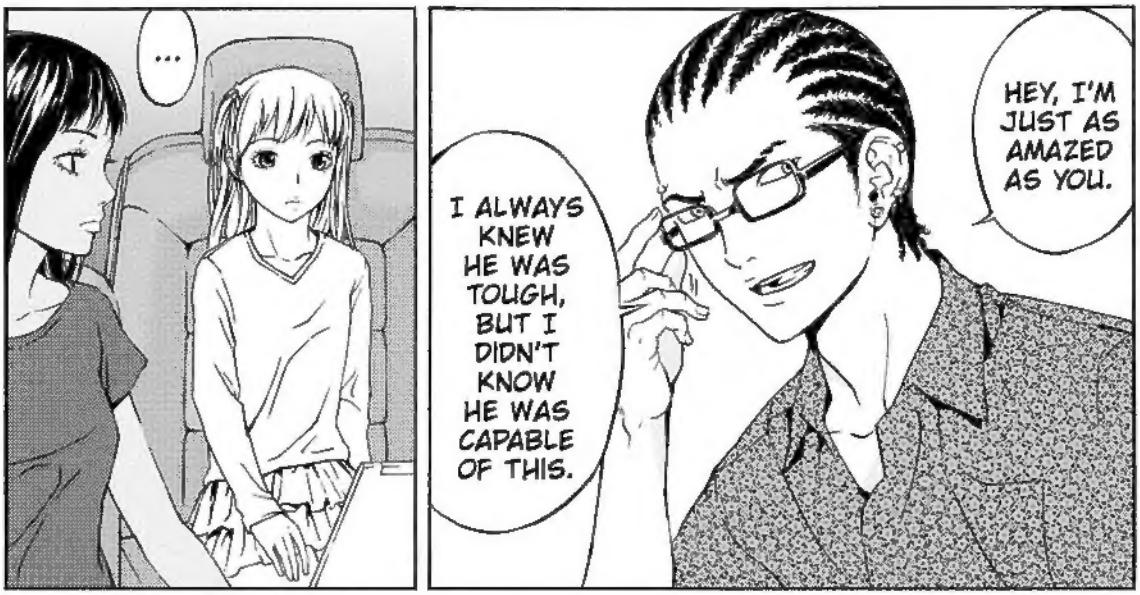
Shoot him!
Ahhh!
AAAAGH!!
MAN, THIS IS PRETTY HOT...
...HE'S EVEN BETTER THAN I'D HEARD...
?


M16A2
tokarev
TT 33
AK-74
EVEN WITH BULLET PROJECTILE-TRACKING SOFTWARE, THE MORE DISTANCE YOU PUT BETWEEN TARGET AND GUN, THE WIDER THE MARGIN OF ERROR OF THE POTENTIAL TRAJECTORY CONE BECOMES.
AND OF COURSE, IT CAN'T PREDICT THE PRECISE TIME WHEN THE ENEMY WILL PULL THE TRIGGER.


HE'S A MONSTER.
NOW I SEE WHY THE CAPTAIN SIGNED OFF ON THIS CRAZY PLAN.
BUT EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THIS BRAWL, HE HASN'T TAKEN A SINGLE BULLET.


...
I ALWAYS KNEW HE WAS TOUGH, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS CAPABLE OF THIS.
HEY, I'M JUST AS AMAZED AS YOU.

...IT'S THE REASON SHE WENT TO HIM FOR HELP...

WHAT ?
HUH !?

memory image
015-16302
T.GENDA
T.Genda

WHO'S THAT!?

フアン
FUAN
フアン
FUAN
フアン
FUAN
フアン
FUAN
(WEE-OOO)
フアン
FUAN
フアン

THINGS ARE GETTING PRETTY CRAZY.

...

AWFUL DANGEROUS OUT HERE. CAN'T EVEN RISK LIGHTING MY CIGARETTE.

chapter 49

ZA
SU
GAMISA

SHA CHAKA

THE JAPANESE POLICE ARE ON TO ME...
KARI (CRK)
KARI

SFX: GU (TUG)

...
KEEP IT TIGHT IN MY STEAD.
SPECIFICALLY, THERE'S A COP NAMED GENDA WHO CAN IDENTIFY ME, WHICH IS WHY I'VE BEEN TAKEN OFF THIS MISSION.

BLADE'S GONNA MOP UP ALL THE CRIMINAL SCUMBAGS WHO THINK THEY CAN GANG UP ON A SINGLE GIRL, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
I'M ON IT.
...FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR KID TOO, INDIA...
PAN (POW)

YOU'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE.
ZA
ZA
ZA (SLASH)

GA (GRRK)
TAHH !!
HYUN (SWSH)
SUPA (SNIK)

ZUGA (ZWATCH)
BUO (WHOOSH)
BLIWA (FWOOM)

...
BASTARD
...
GU
STRAIN
GUGU

MAN,
HE IS
TOUGH...

KAN (KRNK)
BA (WHOOSH)
FUU (PHOO)
SASA (SHHK)
...AND STRIKING SHALLOW BLOWS AT THE OPPONENT'S LIMBS TO SAP HIS STRENGTH IS A FACET OF THE "MUGAI" SCHOOL, ISN'T IT?
KURU (SPIN)
KURU
NOT USING THE BACK OF THE SWORD...

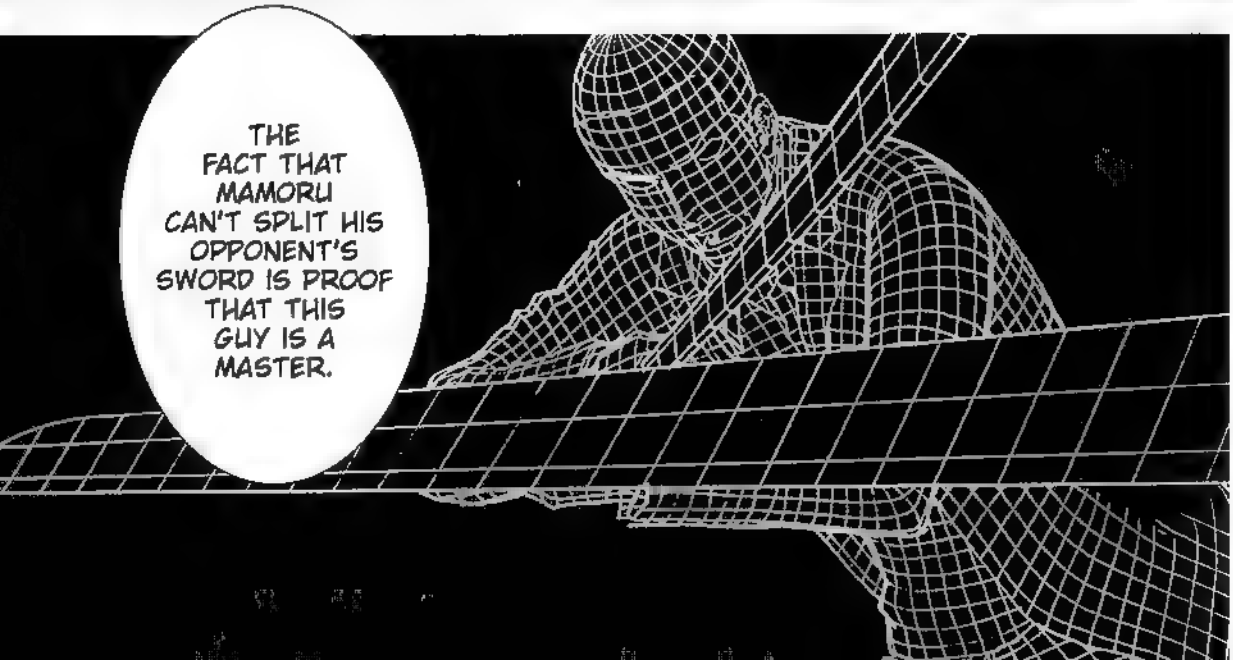
I ALSO RECOGNIZED ASPECTS OF ITTOU STYLE, NEN, EVEN SHINGEN ...
CAN YOU USE EVERY DAMN PRACTICAL ATTACKING STYLE IN THE BOOK!?

AUGH (GASP)
ギュッ

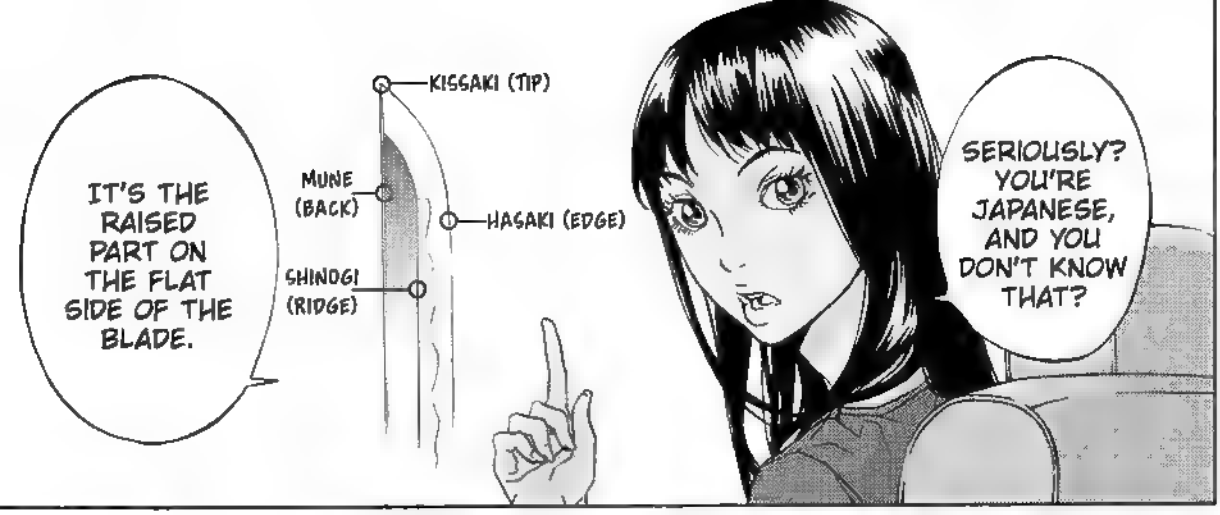
WHO IS THIS GUY!? IT'S PITCH BLACK OUT THERE!!
SO HE'S QUITE THE PROFICIENT SWORDS-MAN, EH...?
... HMM ...

AND HE'S NOT EVEN EQUIPPED FOR NIGHT ACTIVITY.
HOW CAN HE BE GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH MAMORU OUT THERE!?
THE SWORD ISN'T SPLITTING THROUGH THE OTHER GUY'S BLADE! IS THE MONOLAYER WEARING OUT!?

WHICH MEANS HE MUST BE USED TO SWORD-FIGHTING IN THE DARK-NESS.

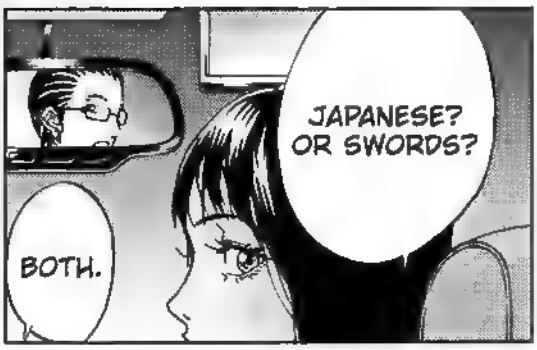

THE FACT THAT MAMORU CAN'T SPLIT HIS OPPONENT'S SWORD IS PROOF THAT THIS GUY IS A MASTER.

A SWORD-FIGHT ISN'T A CLASH OF BLADE EDGE AGAINST BLADE EDGE.
YOU'RE DE-FLECTING THE OTHER BY STRIKING WITH THE FLAT OF THE BLADE AND KNOCKING IT AWAY.
OTHERWISE, EVEN THE FINEST SWORD IS QUICKLY CHIPPED AND SCARRED.
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF A FEROCIOUS DUEL REFERRED TO AS "SCRAPING THE SHINOGI"?
... SHINOGI ?


KISSAKI (TIP)
MUNE (BACK)
HASAKI (EDGE)
SHINOGI (RIDGE)
IT'S THE RAISED PART ON THE FLAT SIDE OF THE BLADE.
SERIOUSLY? YOU'RE JAPANESE, AND YOU DON'T KNOW THAT?

I'M ALWAYS PREPARED FOR A MISSION BEFORE I GO.

...YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS...


JAPANESE? OR SWORDS?
BOTH.

!?

HE'S NOT USING A KATANA.

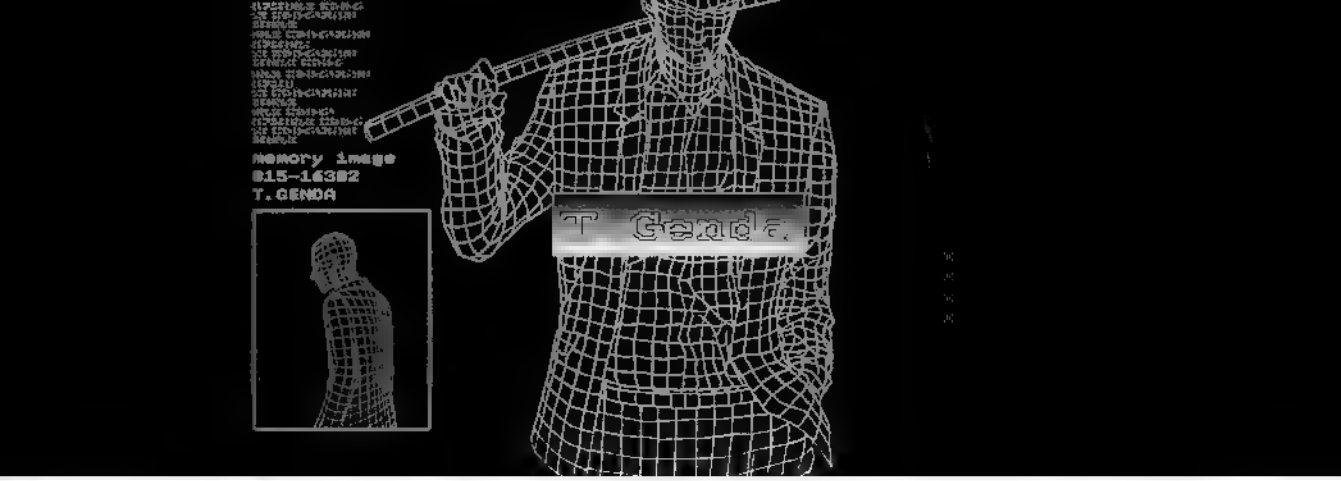
HUH !?
IT'S A BOKUTO, A WOODEN BLADE...
HFF! HFF!
HAAH!
GASA (RUSTLE)
HAAH!
HAAH!
AHHH !!
DON
DON (BLAM)

NNGH ...
URGH ...
DOSA (THUMP)
GAAAH!!
HMPH ...
...FOR ALL THE GRAVITY OF MY ORDERS, THESE CHUMPS DON'T PUT UP MUCH OF A FIGHT...
LISTEN UP, KILO.
YOUR JOB IS TO SNEAK IN AMONG THE LITTLE GUYS, LURE THEM OUT, AND MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR BLADE.
IT'S CRUCIAL THAT YOU TAKE OUT AS MANY AS YOU CAN WHILE MAKING IT LOOK AS THOUGH BLADE WAS RESPONSIBLE.
...

HUH !?
I GET IT, ECHO...
...BUT IT AIN'T NO FUN MAKIN' THE OUT-SIDER LOOK BETTER.
GA
GA (GSHAK)
GA
GA
GA
GA

GABA (SHWUP)
GU (STRAIN)
GU
GU
GU
AHHH !!
GA (WHAK)
GYA (SCRAPE)

WHY'S HE HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME WITH THIS ONE...?
I'LL JUST TAKE OUT THIS GUY MYSELF!
!?


memory image
015-16382
T.GENDA
T Genda

Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 50

BA!
(CHOP)
ズザザ"
ZUZAZA
(SKID)
...SON OF A BITCH...
MIND YOUR OWN DAMN BUSINESS!

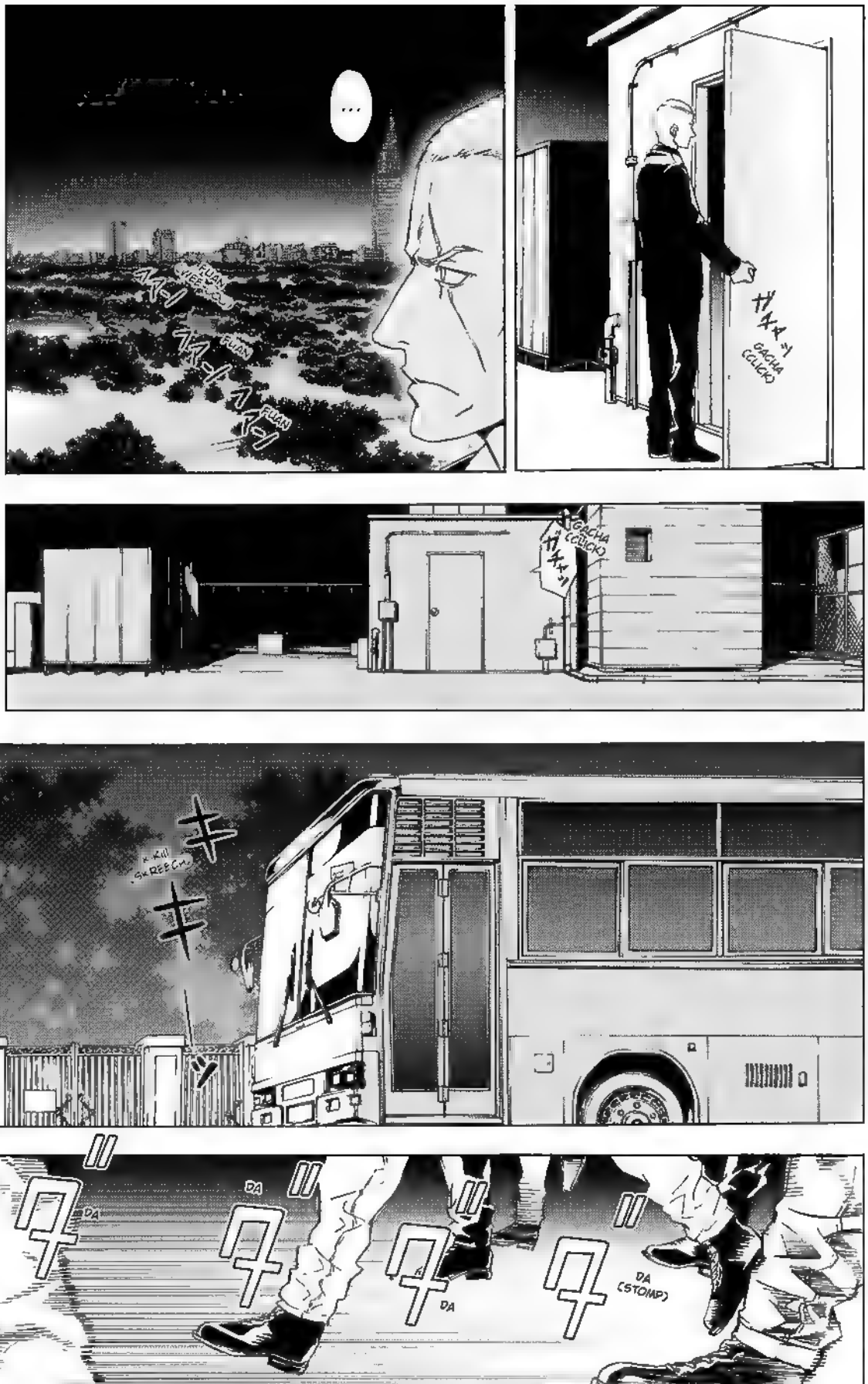
FUAN
FUAN
FUAN
WEE-OOO
FUAN
THAT'S IT. TIME TO PULL THE TEAM BACK.
POLICE ARE RESPONDING QUICKER THAN WE EXPECTED ...
I'LL TRY TO EXTRACT HIM ASAP.
ROGER.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAUGHT A REAL TOUGH COOKIE RIGHT AT THE END OF THE MANEUVER.
FUAN
FUAN
FUAN
MAKE IT QUICK. WE DON'T WANT TO BE TRAPPED IN THERE ALONG WITH THE SCUMBAGS!

?
I WAS HOPING WE'D HAVE ANOTHER TEN MINUTES ...
N-NO, IT'S NOTHING...
WHAT'S UP?
THE REAL SHOW'S ABOUT TO START.
...
SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE "NOTHING."

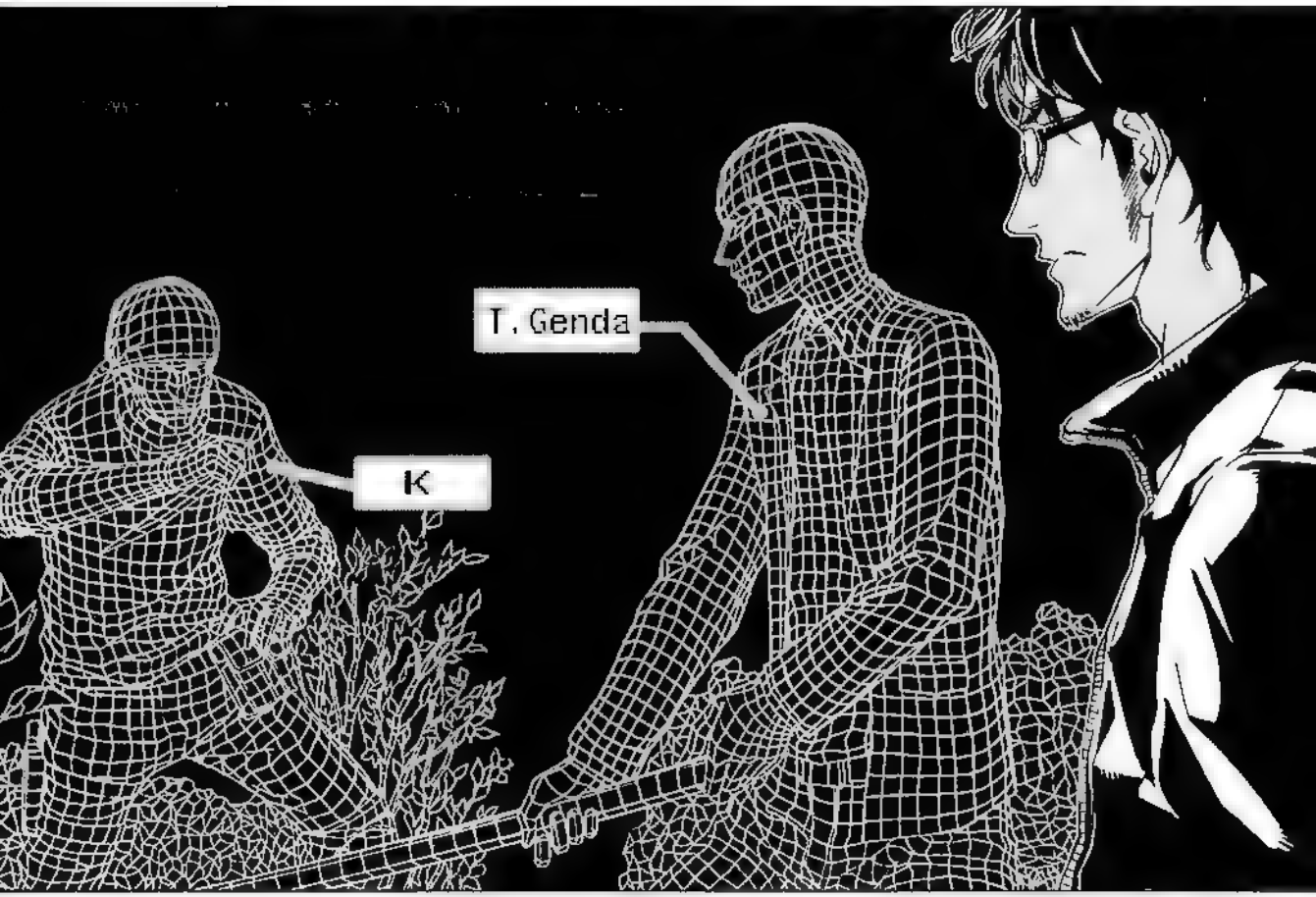
MAMORU-SAN DOESN'T NEED MY HELP.
コク (KOKU) (NOD)
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT HIS ABILITY TO AVOID DANGER AGAIN? THE ONE STRONGER THAN EVEN YOUR FORE-SIGHT?
HUH !?
I SEE... SO THOSE ODD ACTIONS SHE'S BEEN TAKING ARE A TYPE OF SELF-ASSERTION ON HER PART...

I SURE DO.
IN FACT, I KNOW A WAY WE CAN HAVE YOU HELP HIM RIGHT NOW.
LOOK, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. HE'LL NEED YOU BEFORE LONG.
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO...?
...
ALL UNITS PULL OUT!

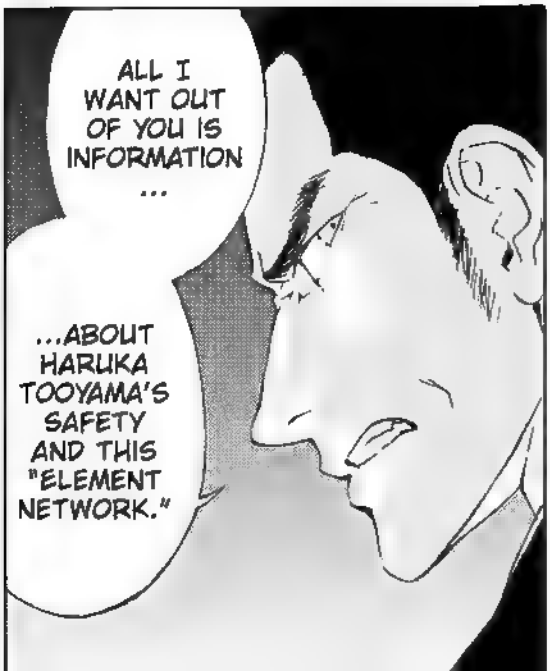
FOX-
TROT,
COPY!


...
FUAN
FUAN
FUAN
FUAN
ガチャッ
GACHA (CLICK)
GACHA (CLICK)
キキ
Kill
SCREECH
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA (STOMP)

CARS: TOKYO PD


T. Genda
K

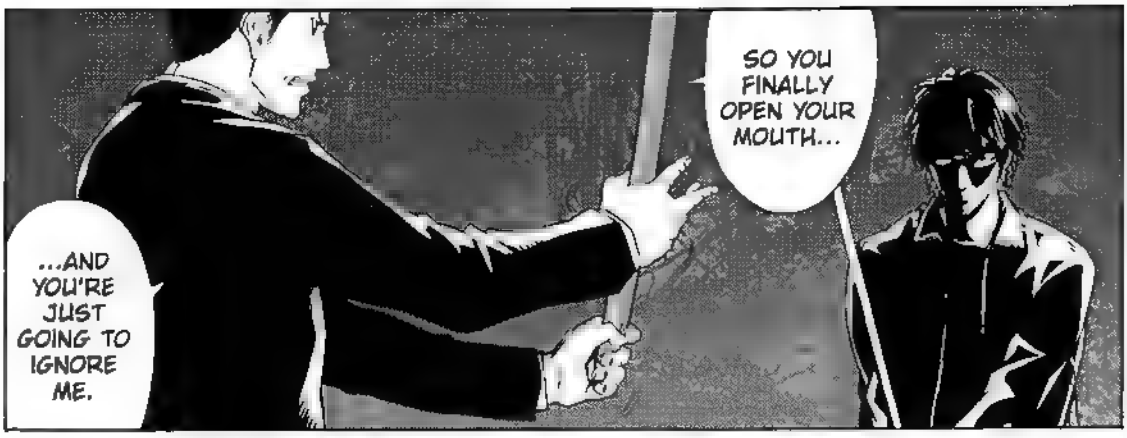
AND IF I'M GOING TO GET THAT, I NEED TO SUBDUE YOU.


ALL I WANT OUT OF YOU IS INFORMATION ...
...ABOUT HARUKA TOOYAMA'S SAFETY AND THIS "ELEMENT NETWORK."

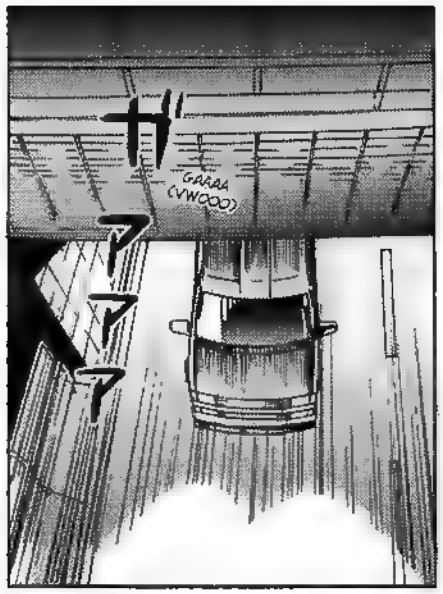
!?
BUO (WHOOSH)
SAKI (KCHING)

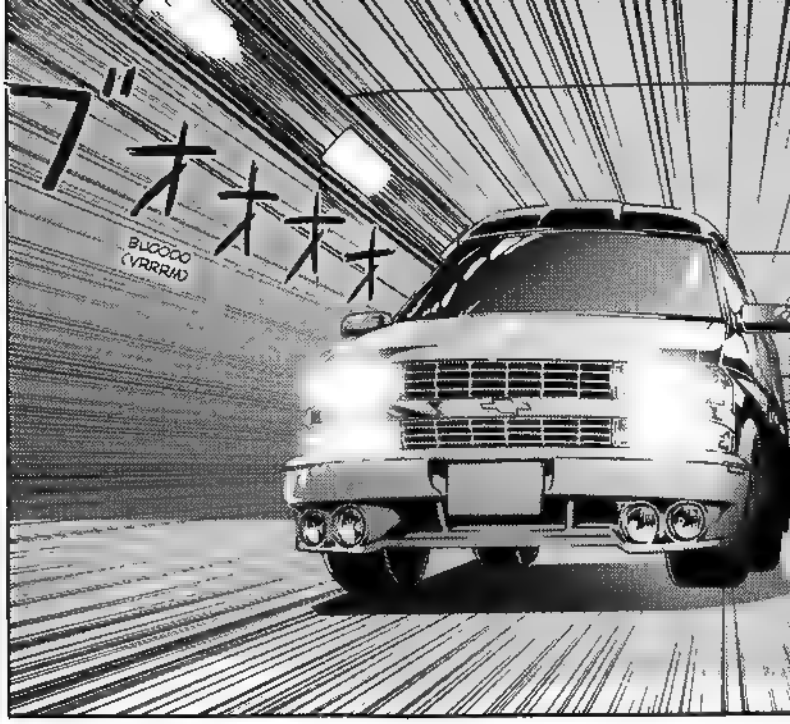
WE'RE OUT OF TIME... PULL BACK.
!?
!?
ALL HE'S BEEN DOING IS TRYING TO HOLD US HERE...
...UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE.
DAMN... YOU SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME.

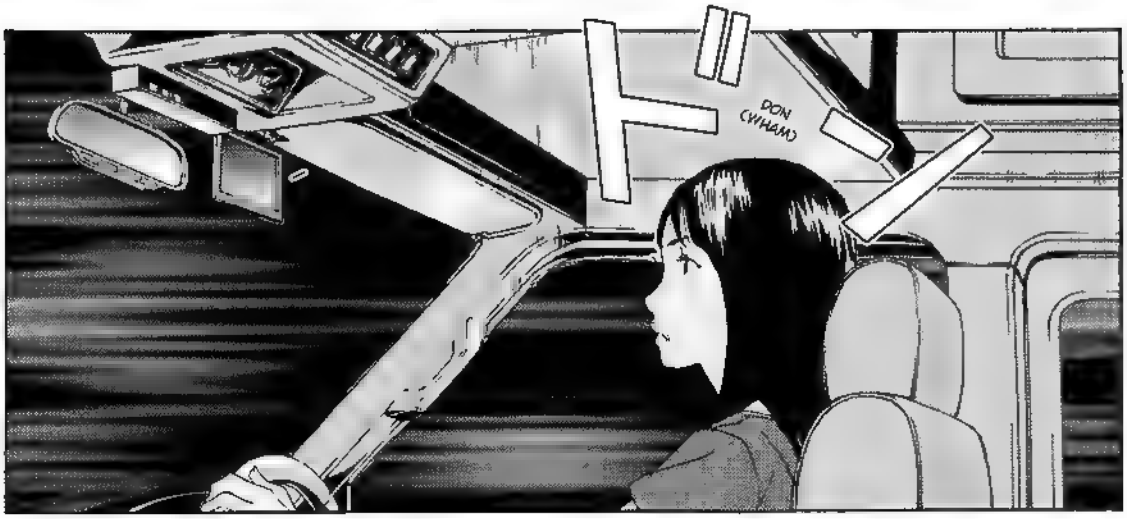
!?
YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE?
GET OUT OF SECTOR D-3. BOUNCE OUT IN EXACTLY THREE MINUTES.
TCH! WE SET UP A TRAP FOR THESE CRIMINALS AND WOUND UP CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. PATHETIC.
ALL RIGHT... I'M OUTTA HERE, THEN.
I CAN FEND FOR MYSELF.
THIS IS MY MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE.


SO YOU FINALLY OPEN YOUR MOUTH...
...AND YOU'RE JUST GOING TO IGNORE ME.

...


ガ
GARAA (VWOOO)
アアア


ブオオオオ
BUOOOO (VRRRM)


ドン
DON (WHAM)

フアン
FUAN
ゴオオ
GOOO (VRRRR)
フアン
FUAN

フアーン
FUAN (WEE-OOO)
フアン
FUAN
フアン

ZURU (SLIDE)
ウィーン
UIIIN (VWEEE)
YOU ALL RIGHT?
... YEAH ...
OF COURSE YOU ARE.
DOSA (THUMP)

GIRO (GLARE)
THE ROOF'S GOT A SHOCK-ABSORPTION MAT.
DAMMIT... I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO OWE THAT GUY ONE.
...I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN ...

TS...
(RST...
...
!?
...
BASTARD
...
スッ
SUSU
(SLIDE)

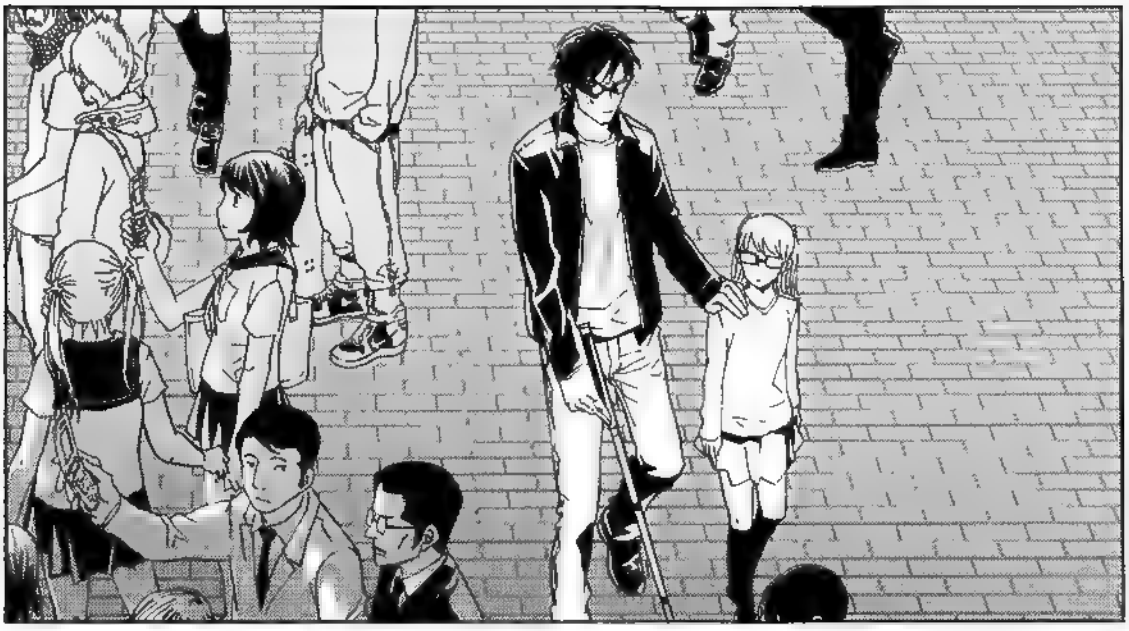
GUCCI (GRIP)

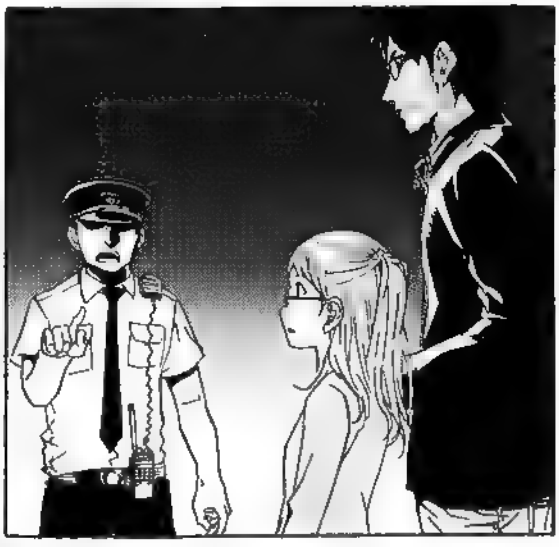
...I'LL KNOW WHEN YOU ATTACK, EVEN IN PITCH BLACKNESS ...

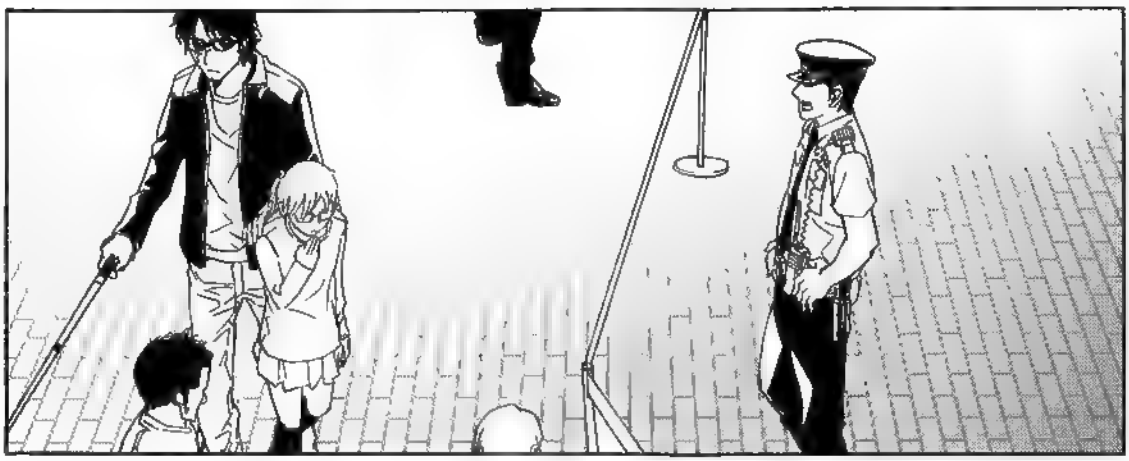
IT'S TIME FOR MY DARKNESS TRAINING TO PAY OFF, TEACHER.
NAH... LET'S SAVE THAT FOR NEXT TIME.
...

GUESS I WASN'T PREPARED FOR THAT
...DIDN'T THINK HE WAS THE TYPE TO ABANDON A DUEL...

MA-
MORU-
SAN.
IT'S SAFE
TO COME
OUT NOW.
BASA
(FLUMP)
...







NO ONE'S GOING TO LOOK TWICE AT A GIRL ESCORTING A BLIND MAN PAST A MOB SCENE LIKE THIS.
WHEW ...
BUT... THANKS ALL THE SAME.

Until
Death
do us
Part

HEY! STOP!
AHH!
NNGH ...
WELL, WELL ...
QUITE THE CLEANUP JOB WE HAVE HERE...

chapter 51

chapter 51

Until
Death
do us
Part

WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
GENDA-SAN!? WHOA!
SQUARED OFF AGAINST A REAL SWORD.
SURPRISED IT ACTU-ALLY HELD UP.
SO "TEPPEI GENDA, FOURTH DAN, NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CONTENDER" ISN'T JUST FOR SHOW.
...
YOU WERE ...
... USING THAT ...?

IT WOULDN'T HAVE TURNED OUT THIS WELL IF THE OTHER GUY HAD BEEN SERIOUS ABOUT CUTTING ME DOWN.

...CAN'T BE A CONTENDER IF YOU'RE BLOWING OFF ALL THE KENDO TOURNAMENTS ...

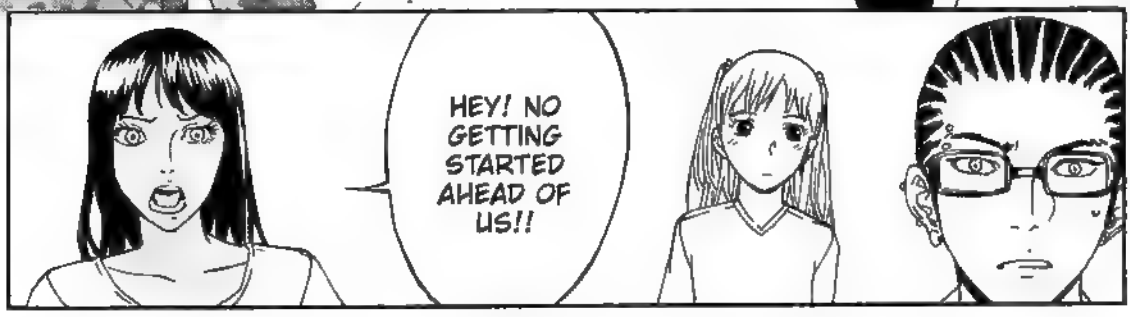
HE'S A PRODIGY OF THE ANCIENT ARTS.

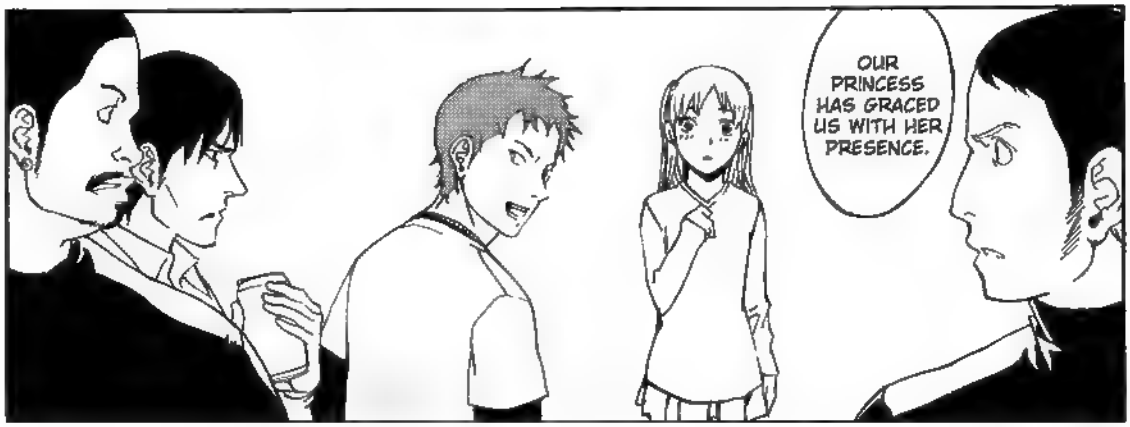
I'VE TINKERED WITH THE OLD STYLE AT TIMES ...
...BUT THAT'S GETTING INTO TRUE SWORDPLAY, NOT JUST KENDO...

...

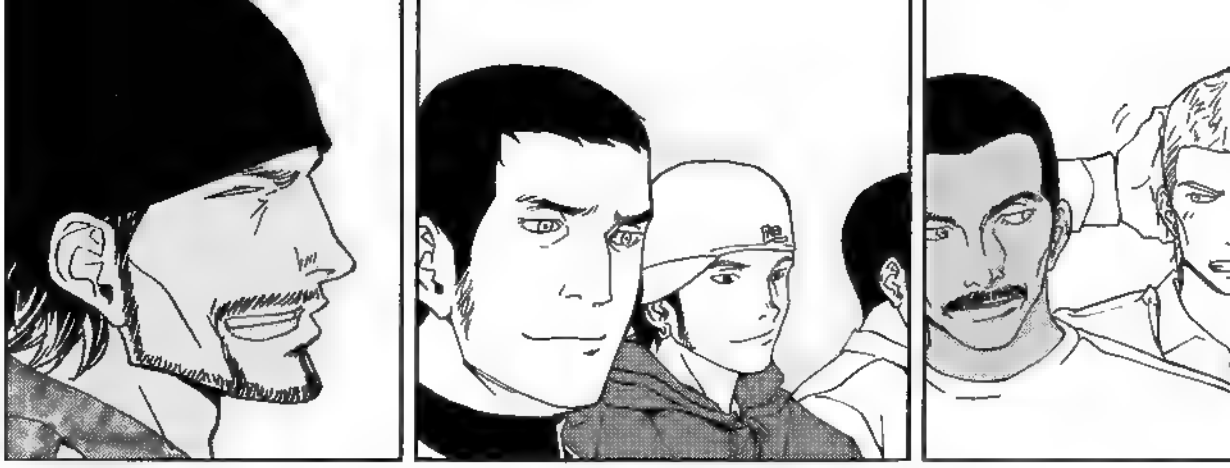
WHOA
...
?

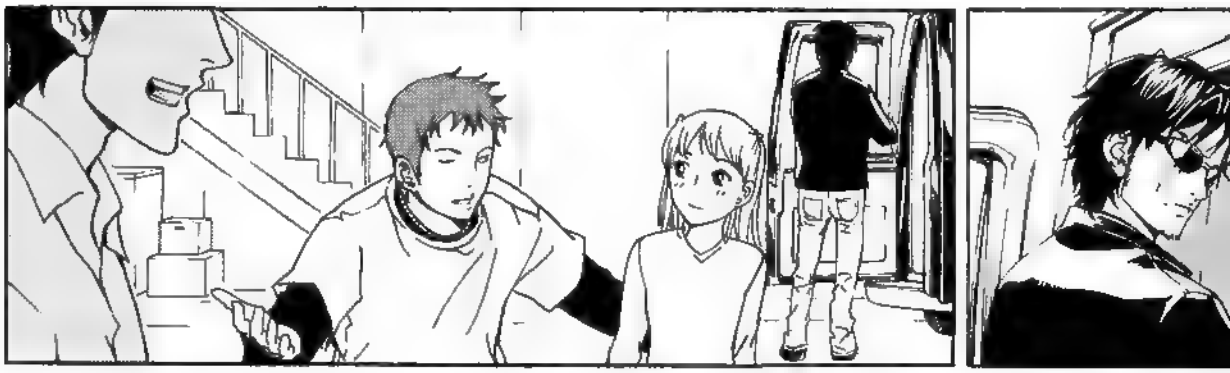
GAYA
GAYA (YAMMERS)
WAI (CHATTER)
WAI


HEY! NO GETTING STARTED AHEAD OF US!!


OUR PRINCESS HAS GRACED US WITH HER PRESENCE.

AH...
HYUUU (TWEET)
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
わあああ
WAAA (RAHHH)
VERY GOOD WORK, EVERY-ONE.
AND... THANK YOU.

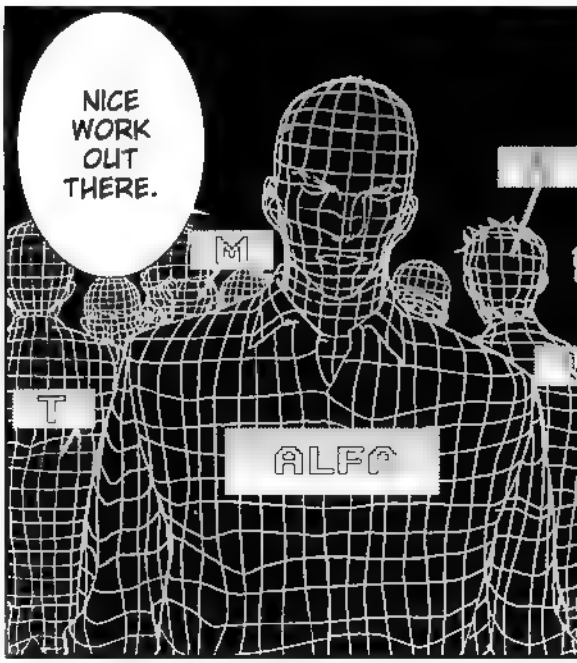


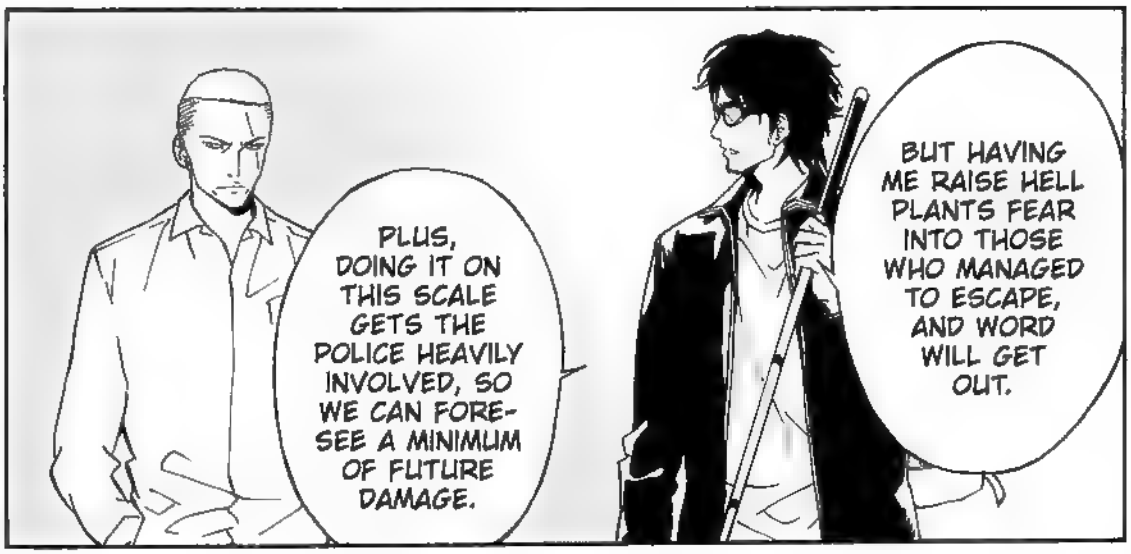


PRETTY MUCH ALL ACCORDING TO PLAN.

IT WAS YOUR PLAN, NOT MINE.

IF WE HAD JUST WANTED TO WIPE THEM OUT, THEN WE COULD'VE DRAWN THEM INTO A TRAP AND GOTTEN IT OVER WITH.


NICE WORK OUT THERE.
ALFA


PLUS, DOING IT ON THIS SCALE GETS THE POLICE HEAVILY INVOLVED, SO WE CAN FORE-SEE A MINIMUM OF FUTURE DAMAGE.
BUT HAVING ME RAISE HELL PLANTS FEAR INTO THOSE WHO MANAGED TO ESCAPE, AND WORD WILL GET OUT.

...
ALL IN ALL, A VERY SMART MOVE.
IT ENSURES THE STORY WILL GAIN LEGS AND MAKES IT THAT MUCH MORE CREDIBLE.

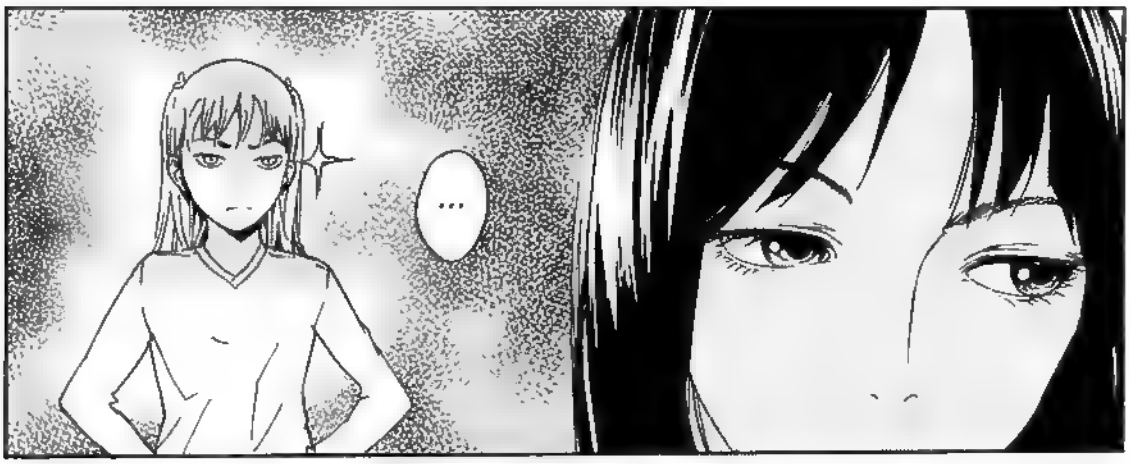
THIS IS DOWNRIGHT NEFARIOUS ...
SERIOUSLY ...

AND ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU.

THERE WAS ONE POINT OF CONCERN, HOWEVER.
I'M SORRY, SQUAD LEADER.
YOU WENT OFF THE SCRIPT, KILO.
?
I'LL TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT LATER.
OKAY.
THANK YOU, SIR.
AS LONG AS WE'RE ALL FINE, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

...
WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH YOU LATER. TAKE IT EASY FOR NOW.
YES, SIR.
WHY THE LONG FACE?
PUSHU (PSHK)
NOTHIN' ...
YO!
PA (SNATCH)
!
CHEERS !!
WELL, NOW THAT WE'RE ALL TOGETHER ...

!?
JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE. MAMORU-SAN IS INCREDIBLY TIRED.
WHAT'S WRONG ...?
OF COURSE HE WOULD BE.
OH... I GET IT...


...

...HMPH... SO, SOMEONE THINKS SHE'S THE PROTECTIVE LITTLE WIFE, EH?
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

ガバ
GABA (LURCH)
ZZZ...
ZZZ...

CHA
(CLICK)

I KNOW IT'S YOU.

... HEY ...

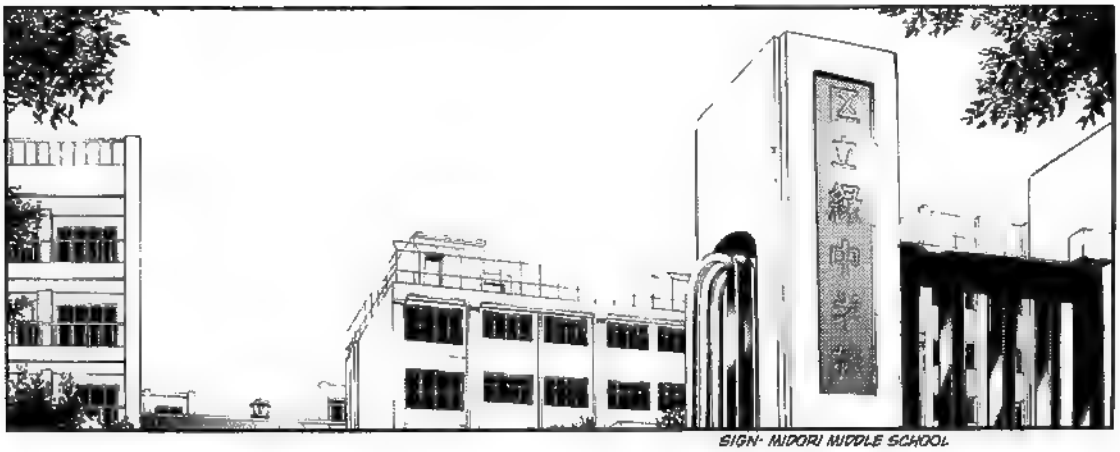
WHY DIDN'T ANYONE WAKE ME UP!?

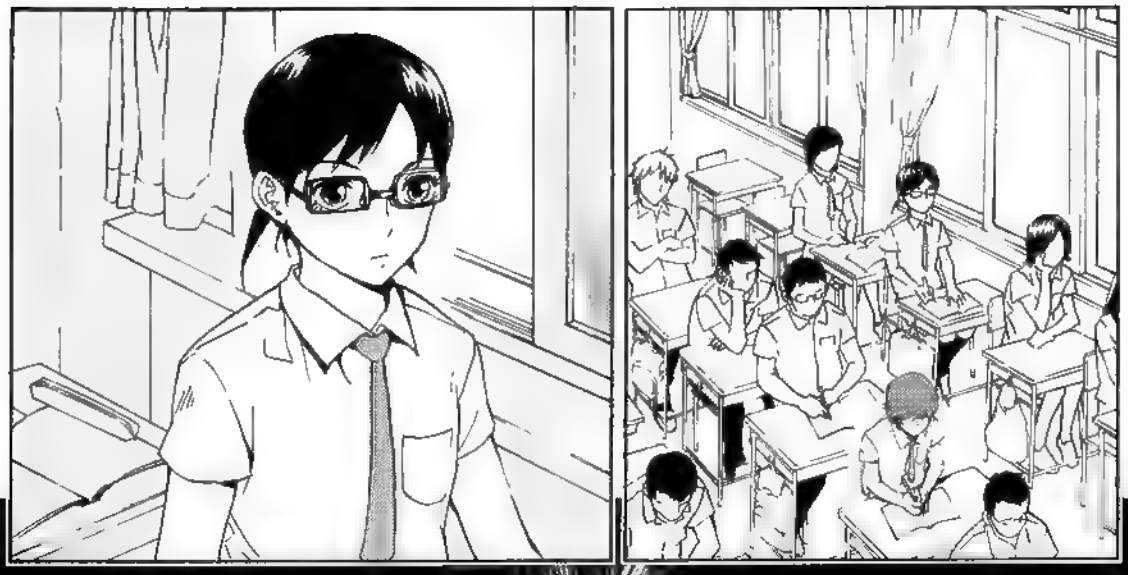
YOUR PAL TOOK JULIET AND KILO WITH HIM. SAID THE PRINCESS HAD TO GO TO SCHOOL.

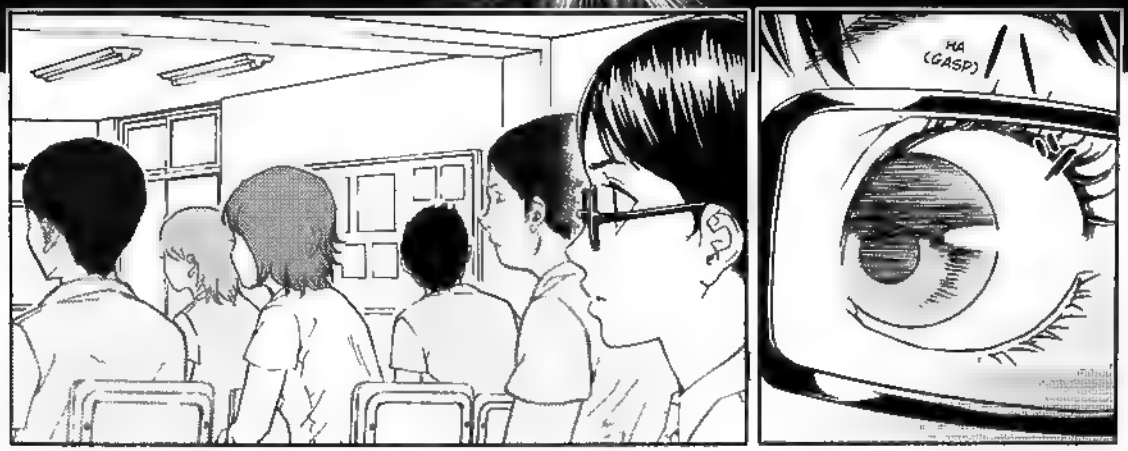
THE CAPTAIN AND SQUAD LEADER TOOK THE OTHERS.
CLEAN-UP AND PLANNING FOR THE NEXT MISSION.

ISN'T SHE SWEET?
THE LITTLE LADY WANTED YOU TO GET YOUR BEAUTY SLEEP.

...


SIGN: MIDORI MIDDLE SCHOOL




HA
(GASP)

DOKUN
(BA-BUMP)

DOKUN

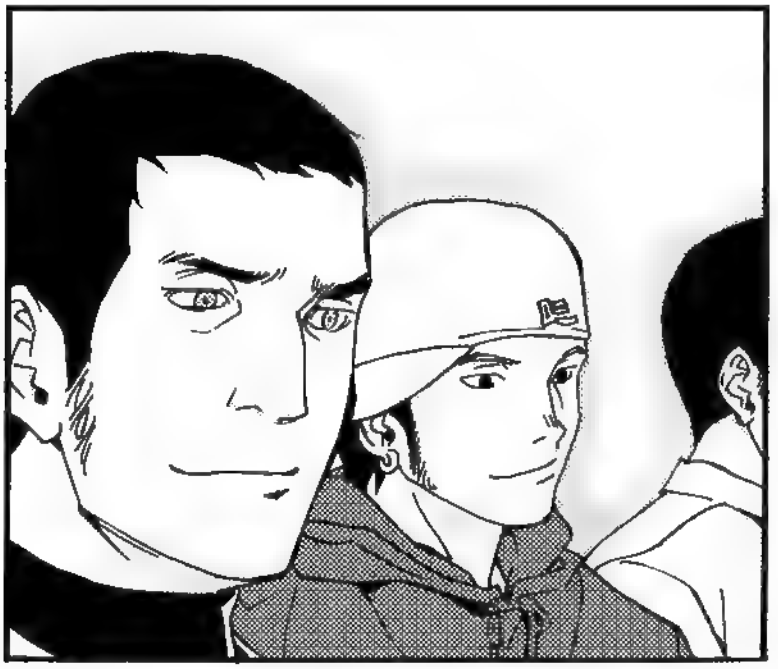
DOKUN

DOKUN
(BA-BUMP)

DOKUN

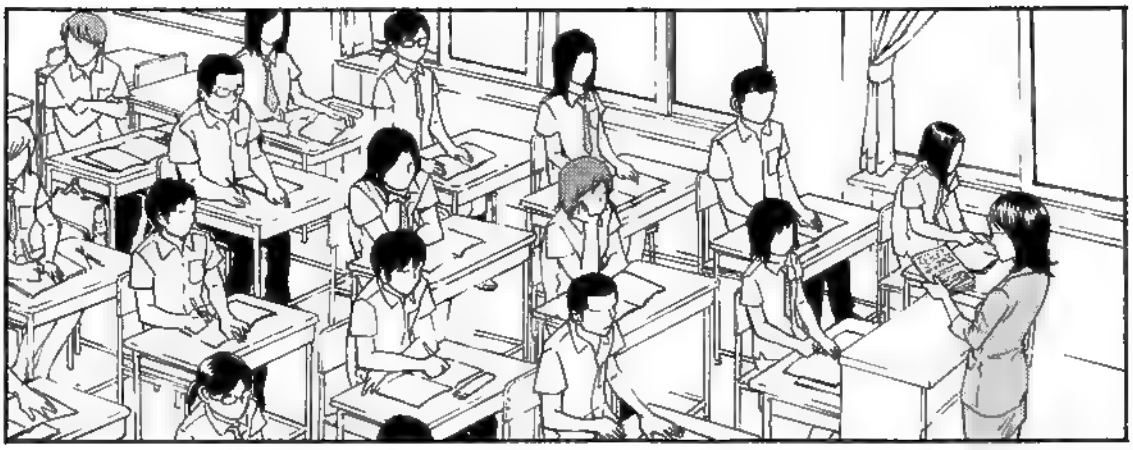
ミナ
DOK!
(BA-BUMP)
ミナ
DOK!

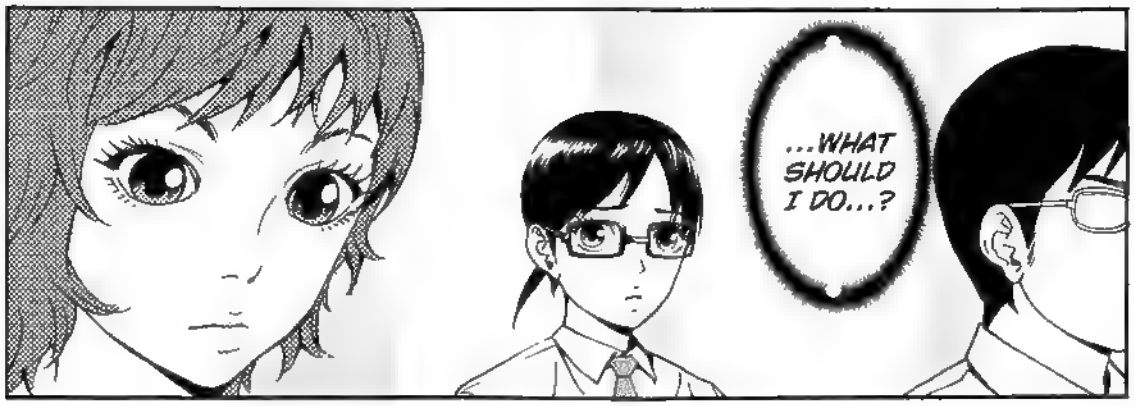
...



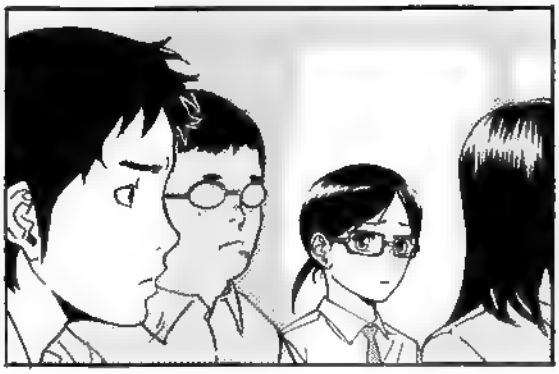
Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 52

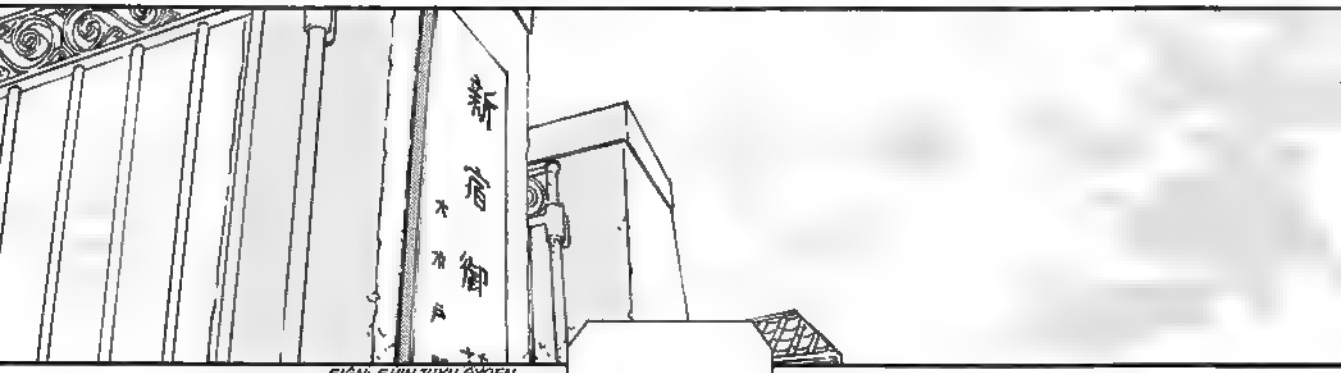



...WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

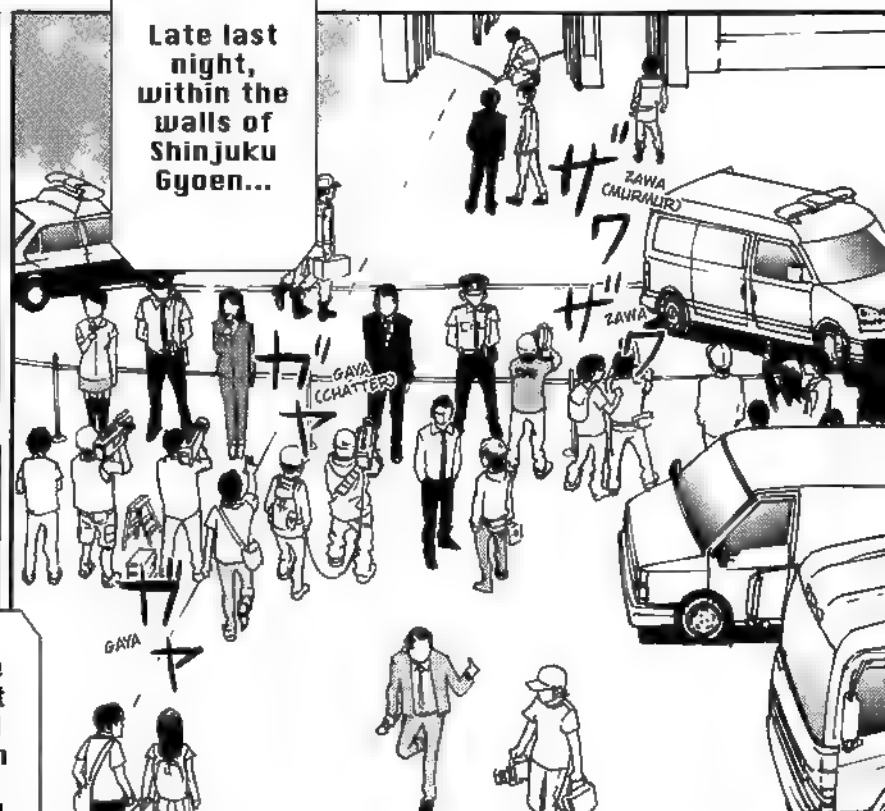
KIWA MATOBA ???

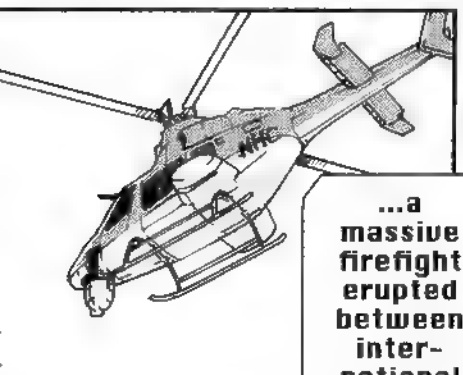


?

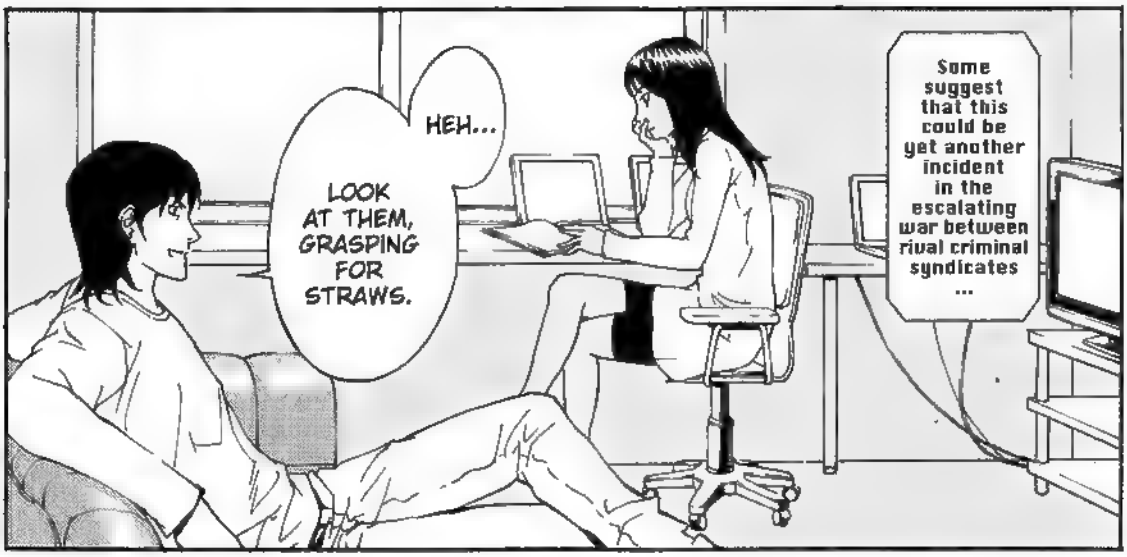


SIGN: SHINJUKU GYOEN





Surprisingly enough, nearly all the injuries appear to be the result of stabbings or slashings, which has led to rampant speculation.
Details are still scarce, but preliminary police reports list seven in critical condition with an additional sixty-two injured.


HEH...
LOOK AT THEM, GRASPING FOR STRAWS.
Some suggest that this could be yet another incident in the escalating war between rival criminal syndicates ...

IT'D BE PRETTY DAMN HARD...

...

HOW COULD ANYONE PIN DOWN SUCH A UNIQUE SITUATION WITHOUT HAVING BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE MATTER?
THE POOR THINGS ...

BUT IF THAT SAMURAI DIDN'T HAVE TO HAVE THINGS HIS WAY...
GISHI (CREAK)
...WE COULD HAVE JUST LURED OUT ALL THE CRIMINALS AND WIPED THEM OUT AT ONCE.

PARA (FLIP)
THE FACT THAT IT GOT SO OUT OF HAND WAS SIMPLY A REFLECTION OF THE SIZE OF THE BOUNTY PLACED ON HIS HEAD.

TRUE.
THIS PLAN WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO IMPRESS MAMORU'S STRENGTH UPON THE REST OF THE UNDER-WORLD.

...
PATAN (THUMP)

YEAH, I KNOW.

HEY.
ARE YOU HANGING AROUND HERE JUST TO BELLYACHE ABOUT EVERY-THING?
KURU (SPIN)
...WHAT...?
...
TON (TMP)
TON
BAH.
NOTHIN' ELSE TO DO.
...HMM...

!?

ISN'T THAT...THE GUY FROM YESTER-DAY?

THE BASTARD IS A COP?

OH MAN... WHAT CAN I DO?
HOW CAN I SAVE HER?
...
BUT WILL THEY ACT BASED ON SUCH VAGUE INFORMATION?
SHE'LL BE SHOT... SOME KIND OF CRIME?
I NEED TO HAVE THEM SAVE HER...

TRANS-CEIVER ON.
I KNOW MAMORU-SAN WOULD...
Sorry. Is Mamoru-san home?
WE HAVEN'T HEARD MUCH FROM HIM...
MAMORU? NOT YET.
BEEP!
What's up? You don't usually call at school.
OH... I SEE...

HUH?

...WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

(BEEP)
Edit View
start
Haruka
no image
Off Line
Off Line
Off Line

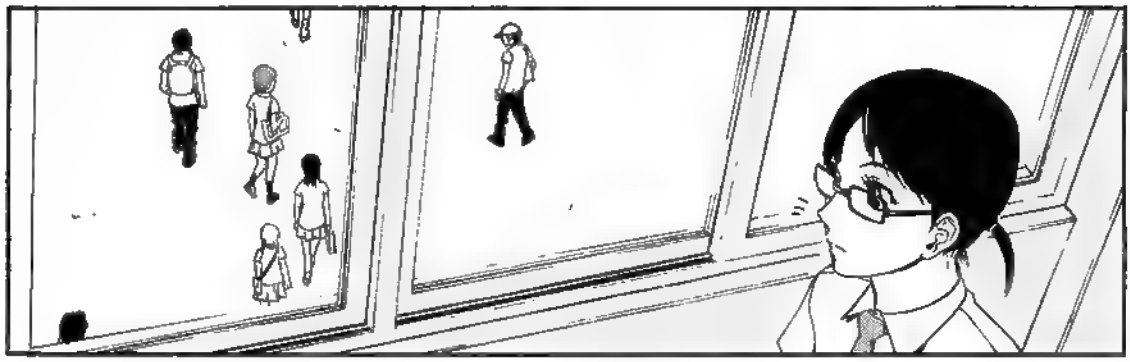
HUH !?
PASHI (SNATCH)

YOU SAID YOU WERE BORED, RIGHT? TAKE OVER FOR ME.

I'M TIRED OF BABY-SITTING.
WHAT'S WITH YOU!?

SIGN: MIDORI MIDDLE SCHOOL

...
ガヤ
GAYA
(MURMURS)
GAYA
ガヤ
AH!?
?
OKAY.
GO DUMP OUT THE TRASH CAN, TACHIBANA.
HUH?



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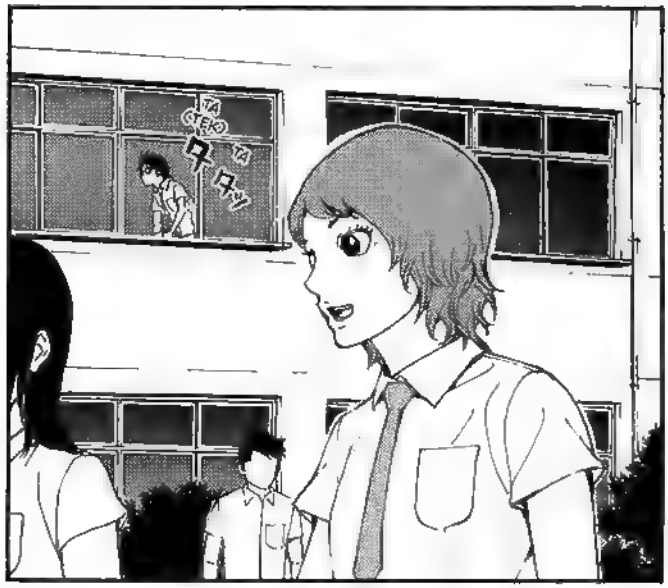

TA
CHIKO
TA
タ
タッ

WHAT
!?
SHE'S
LEAVING!

HEY, WHAT ABOUT THE GARBAGE?
HAA (HUFF)
HAA
TA (TEK)
TA
TA
HUH?
GUI (SHOVE)
SORRY, CAN YOU TOSS THIS OUT FOR ME?
DA (DASH)
HEY!
BA (SNATCH)

THERE'S NO TIME TO STAND AROUND DEBATING WITH MYSELF!
I'M SORRY!
タタタッ
NO RUNNING IN THE HALLS!

?
Haruka speaking.

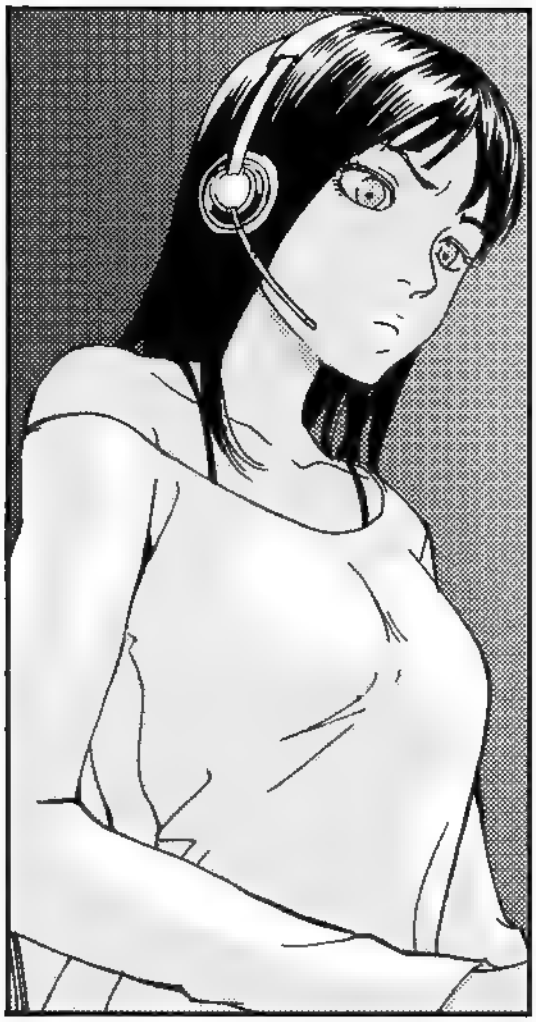
I'M SORRY!
I'M ABOUT TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL !!

No! Don't pull any stunts on your—
MUTE SOUND.

HUH !?
WHOA, WHAT !?

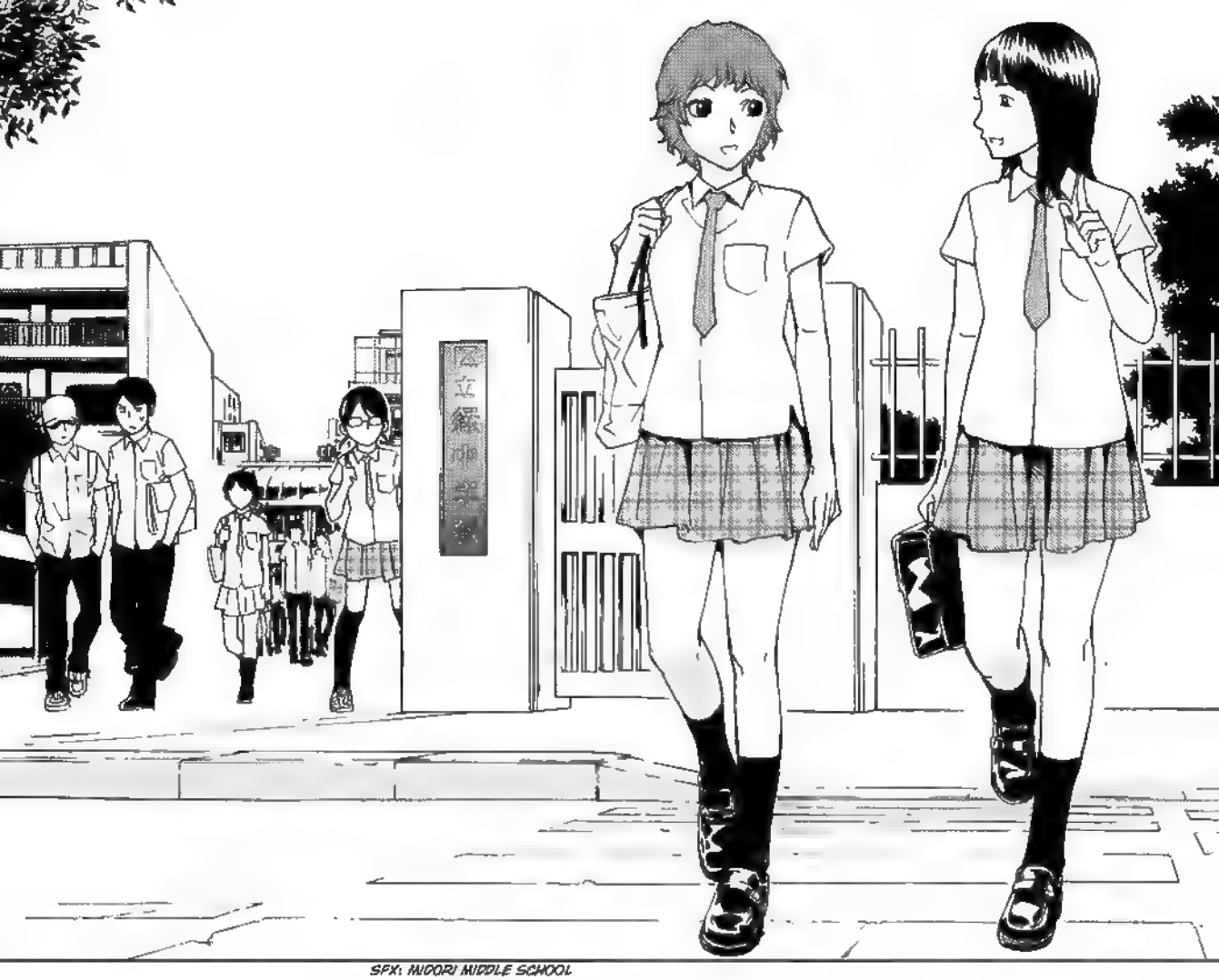
DAMMIT ...
HEY!
HANG ON!!
HAA CHUFF?
HAA
I'M SO SORRY.
WAS THAT KILO-SAN?
...WE CAN AVOID THIS.
...IF I CAN ALTER HER PLANS JUST A LITTLE BIT...
I JUST THINK...

ブォォォ
BUOOO
(VRRRM)

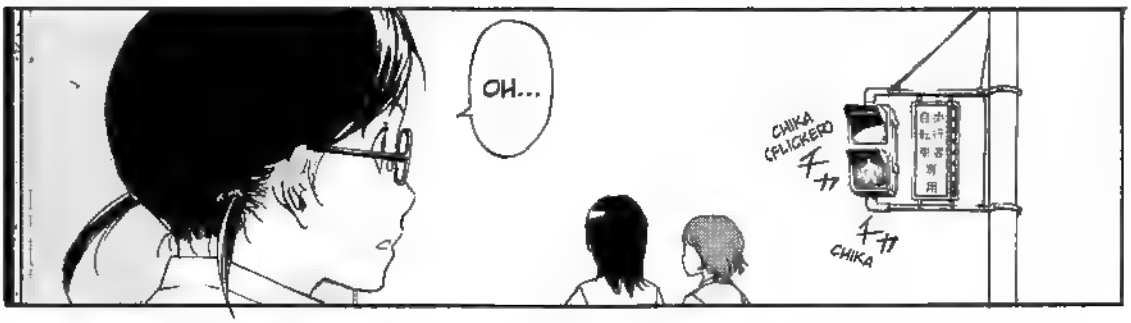


Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 53



SFX: MIDORI MIDDLE SCHOOL

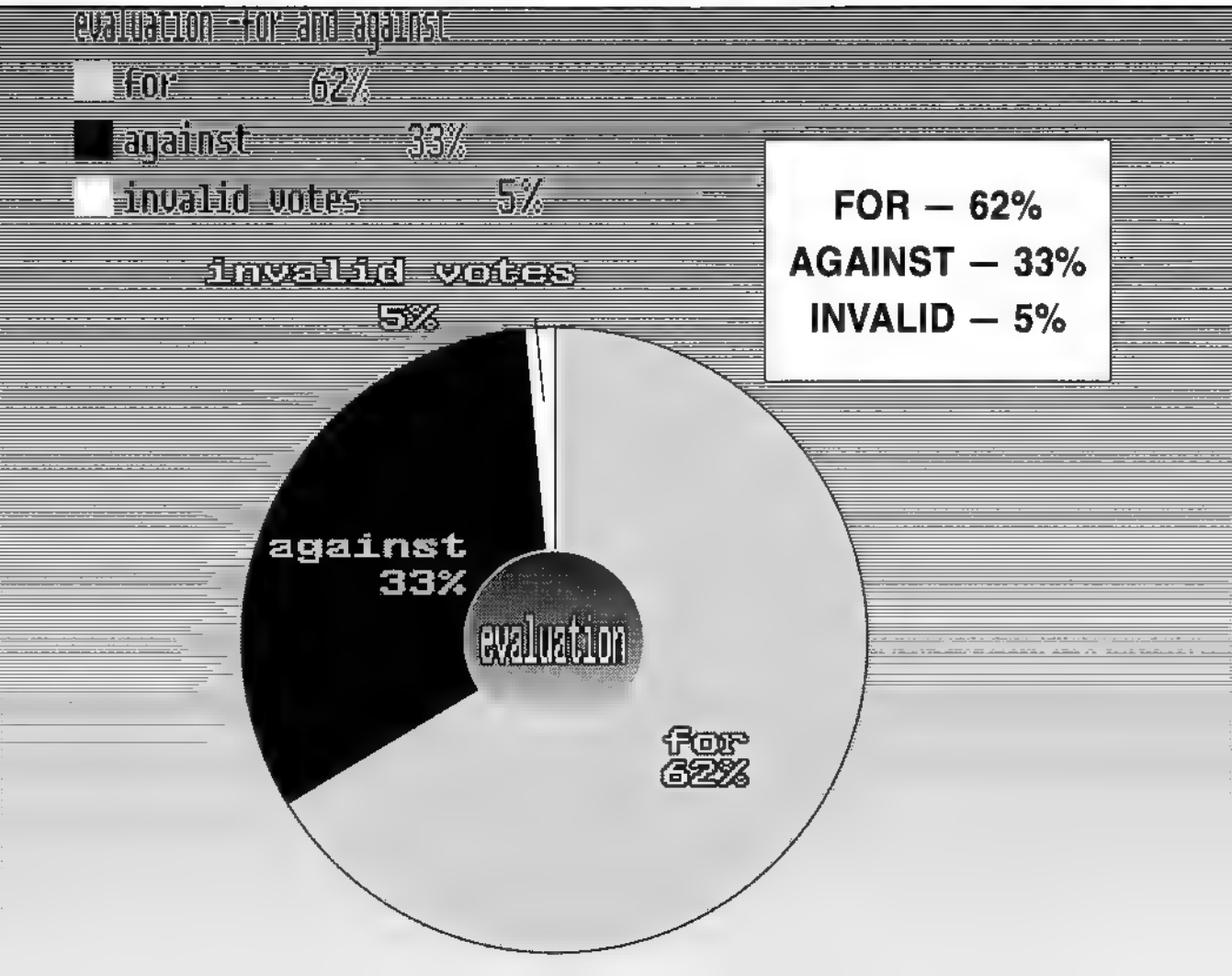


WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOING !?
HEY!
DON'T YOU DARE —
SHE TURNED IT OFF?
File Edit View Info Help
start
Haruka offline
BEEP!
SHIT!
OF COURSE THIS ONLY HAPPENS WHEN I'M ON DUTY!
?

AND IT WAS EVEN WORSE BEFORE.
HMM... SUPPORT IS PRETTY LOW FOR THIS MISSION, DESPITE THE WALL'S INVOLVE-MENT.
BATAN (SLAM)
THE ASSHOLE JUST HAD TO KNOCK 'EM ALL OUT COLD.
I GUESS I DON'T BLAME THEM, AFTER THE SAVAGERY THAT JUST HAPPENED.
ARE YOU STILL HERE !?
HEY, JULIET!!

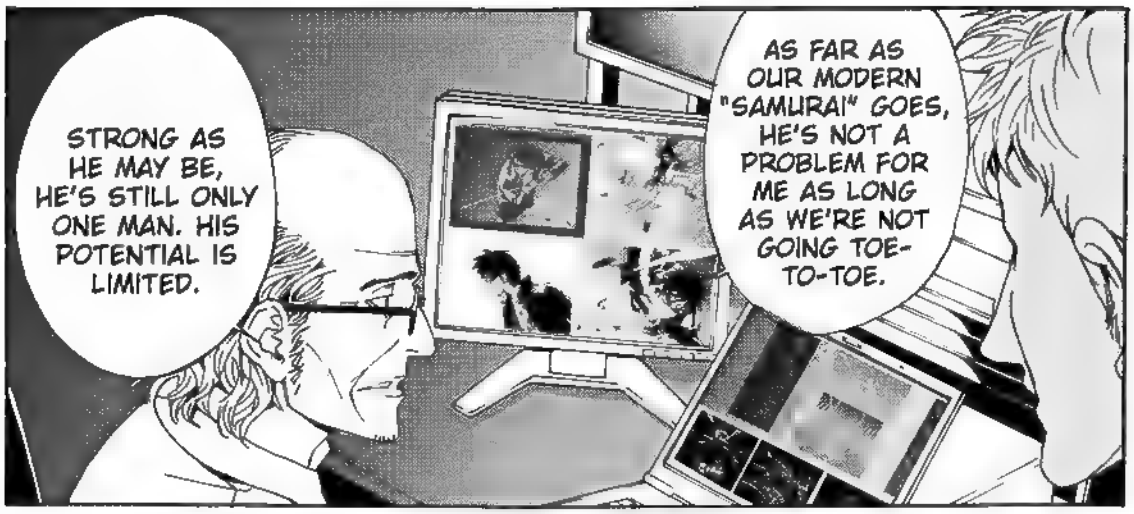
state of evaluation by selection members the final notice

NETWORK MEMBER EVALUATION: FINAL NOTICE



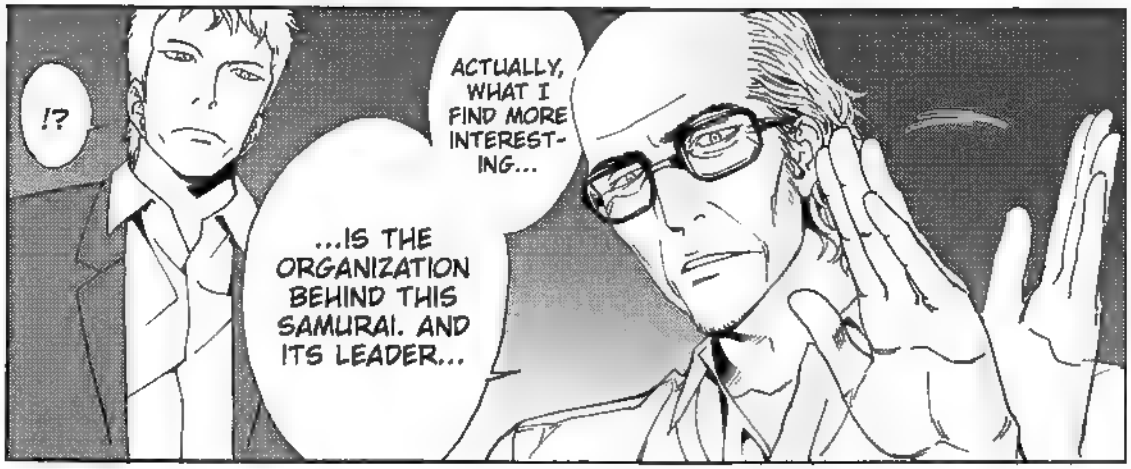
KATA (TAP)
KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA
GACHA (CLICK)
GURU (SWIVEL)

...
HOW DOES IT LOOK, PROFES-SOR?
I'VE PERUSED YOUR PROPOSED "CRIME SYNDICATE WAR" PLAN, MR. KOMURA.
TON (TAP)
TON
I CAN'T SEE ANY PART OF IT THAT NEEDS ADJUSTMENT FOR THE MOMENT.
I CAN SEE THAT YOU GOT YOUR SMARTS FROM TURUS.
THANK YOU.


STRONG AS HE MAY BE, HE'S STILL ONLY ONE MAN. HIS POTENTIAL IS LIMITED.
AS FAR AS OUR MODERN "SAMURAI" GOES, HE'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR ME AS LONG AS WE'RE NOT GOING TOE-TO-TOE.

TRUE... PLUS HE HAS THAT GIRL WITH THE POWER OF FORE-SIGHT.

IF ANYTHING'S GOING TO BE A PROBLEM, IT'S THAT HE CAN POP UP IN UNEXPECTED PLACES, GUERILLA-STYLE, TO INTERFERE WITH OUR EFFORTS.
PLUS, WE'VE GOT A GOOD START ON ANALYZING OUR DATA.


!?
ACTUALLY, WHAT I FIND MORE INTEREST-ING...
...IS THE ORGANIZATION BEHIND THIS SAMURAI. AND ITS LEADER...

AFTER FINALLY DISCOVERING HIS IDENTITY, I JUST HAD TO MEET HIM.
THAT FORMER SPECIAL OPS GUY? JACK GARVEY?
THEN WHAT WAS LAST NIGHT?
YES.
I'D LOVE THE CHANCE TO MATCH A FELLOW LIKE THAT IN A BATTLE OF WITS.
...

WITH HIS LIFE ON THE LINE.

AMATERA

Tokyo

GAYA (MURMUR)
ガヤ
GAYA
ガヤ

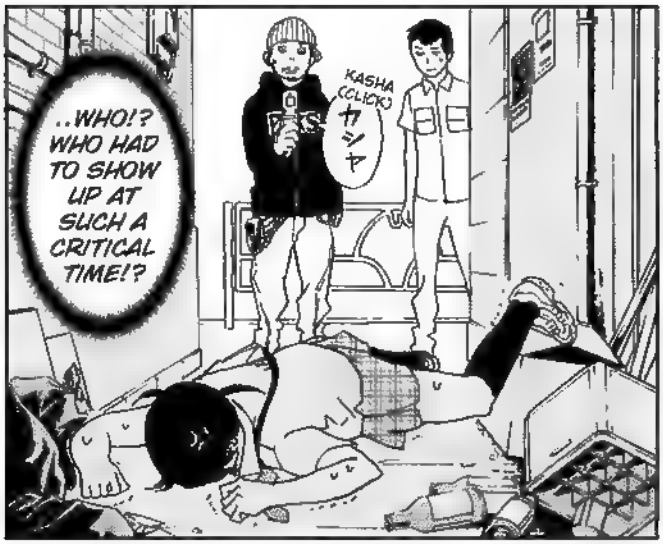
...I'VE NEVER EVEN SAID ANYTHING MORE THAN "HELLO" TO HER...
...

SUNTORY COFFEE BOS
Coca-Cola
コソ
KOSO (SNEAK)
コソ
KOSO
♪♫♬
シャ
SHA (SWISH)
はぁ
HAA (HUFF)
はぁ
HAA
HMM ?

...HOW SHOULD I APPROACH HER...?
?
AND... WHY IS SHE WANDERING AROUND SO MUCH?

MROWW
...
TSK, TSK, TSK!
SHE SEEMS NICE... I REALLY WISH I COULD HELP HER...

HERE GOES NOTHING!
IF I CAN JUST CHANGE HER COURSE A LITTLE, IT'LL KEEP HER FROM BEING SHOT, I BET.
IT'LL BE DARK SOON...
UM...
セキネ
HEY, KIWA.
OH, SHOU!
GYUN (ZOOM)
ギュン


..WHO!? WHO HAD TO SHOW UP AT SUCH A CRITICAL TIME!?
KASHA (CLICK)
カシャ

ガラ
GARA (CRASH)
ガシャーン
GASHAN (KTHUNK)
?

YEAH, WE GOT CAUGHT UP IN SOME-THING PRETTY NASTY.
OH.
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED?

WELL, THAT'S WHAT I'M ABOUT TO EXPLAIN. LISTEN UP.
?
MAKO-CHAN ISN'T WITH YOU?
AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO DISTRACT HER!
THE ONE EVERYONE SAYS POPS UP NIGHT AFTER NIGHT!
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT GUY!

THE CRAZY SAMURAI-MAN WHO SHOWS UP AT CRIME SCENES SWINGING AROUND A KATANA!
WHAT ?

HUH !?

HELL NO! WE SAW HIM!!
HE'S THE ONE WHO DID THIS TO US!!

WHAT? I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST A STUPID URBAN LEGEND.

WHAT !?
OPEN
OH YEAH?
YEAH. WE BROKE INTO A PACHINKO PARLOR. SERIOUSLY, ALL WE WANTED WAS A LITTLE POCKET MONEY, NOTHING WORSE THAN THAT.
BESIDES, YOU KNOW PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT HE WAS BEHIND THE RUMBLE IN SHINJUKU GYOEN!?

...RUMORS... CAN BE... SCARY...
WHAAAAAT!?

Until
Death
do us
Part

FOUR HOURS EARLIER...
SIGN: FIRST INVESTIGATION SECTION
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF!?
WELL, GENDA!?
...
ZAWA ZAWA
ZAWA ZAWA

chapter 54

...
YAWNING YOUR BIG YAP RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A NATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE !?
WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU!?
I DON'T THINK ANYONE WATCHING REALIZED HE'S AN OFFICER.
EASY, SECTION CHIEF.

AND I HEAR YOU WAITED UNTIL THE LAST SECOND ...
...TO GET AROUND TO REPORTING THIS WHOLE CLUSTERFUCK!! WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE!?
...
THIS IS DESERV-ING OF A WRITE-UP!!
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE! WE'D BE UP TO OUR NECKS IN SHIT IF THEY'D FIGURED IT OUT!!
SA (SWISH)
I WILL SUBMIT A FULL REPORT.
...
UM, GENDA-SAN...?
I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU!!
HEY! YOU!
KURU (SPIN)
WHAT!?

7"
オオオオ
BLOOD CYPHERIAD
HMM?
...

YEAH... WELL, IT'S JUNE ALREADY ...
SMELLS LIKE EARLY SUMMER.
YEAH ...
SO YOU FEEL THE SEASONS THROUGH SUNLIGHT AND SMELLS, HUH?
NOPE...I WASN'T...
BUOOOO (VROOM)
YOU WEREN'T BORN BLIND, WERE YOU?
...

I'M JUST LIKE ANY-ONE ELSE WHO GOES BLIND.
MUSTA BEEN HARD WHEN YOU LOST YOUR SIGHT.
...IS HE EXPECTING ME TO BELIEVE THAT...?
EVEN SOMEONE WHO WAS A TOTAL MASTER OF COMBAT BEFORE HE WENT BLIND...
...WOULD COMPLETELY LOSE ALL THE SKILLS HE'D LEARNED AND PERFECTED UP UNTIL THAT POINT.

WHAT?
BUOOO (VRRRM)
NOTHIN'.
IT BOGGLES THE MIND ...
GACHA (CLICK)
BATAN (SLAM)
KII (SCREE)
WHAT DO YOU WANT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
...

A SIMPLE EXPLANATION ISN'T TOO MUCH FOR THE GUY WHO DROVE YOU HERE TO ASK...

OH YEAH! WHAT'S WITH YOU AND THAT COP GENDA, ANYWAY?
BAN
BAN (WHAP)
SOMEONE TOUGH-ER?
NEED A REPLACE-MENT.
MET SOMEONE TOUGHER THAN I EXPECTED LAST NIGHT, AND MY SWORD'S RUINED.

I'VE DABBLED A LITTLE BIT IN THE ANCIENT STYLE BEFORE.
KIRIN
JUST A LITTLE TASTE OF VARIOUS STYLES, WHATEVER I COULD FIND.
AS A POTENTIAL NATIONAL KENDO CHAMPION?
I WANTED SOMETHING I COULD USE FOR SUBMISSION AND ARRESTS... SOMETHING KENDO ABANDONED LONG AGO.
KIRIN
THAT'S WHEN I MET MAMORU HIJIKATA.
BYUN (WHOOSH)
...

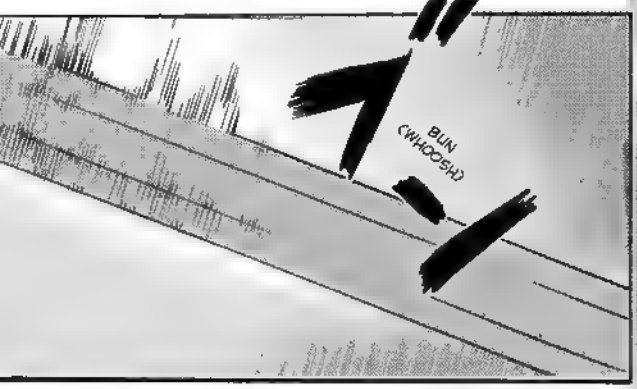
...

BLIN (WHOOSH)

ブン BLIN

ブン BLIN

NO MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS OLD, SWINGING A MASSIVE TEN-POUND WOODEN SWORD LIKE IT WAS MADE OF PAPER.



NO MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS OLD, SWINGING A MASSIVE TEN-POUND WOODEN SWORD LIKE IT WAS MADE OF PAPER.

PI!PI!
ピピッ
PI!
ピッ
PI!
(BEEP)
ピッ
1 2
4 5 6
7 8 9
* 0
GACHA
(CLICK)
ガチャッ

...
THAT CAUTIOUSNESS IS AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE, MAN.
ZUZU... (SLIDE)

WAIT, ONLY TWO?

WHOA...

ガラガラガラ

THEY'RE MASTERPIECES OF MODERN BLACKSMITHING. THESE AREN'T MASS-PRODUCED INDUSTRIAL MODELS.

YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO COME BACK WITH AN ARM-FUL OF THE THINGS.

THEY'RE MADE TO FIT WITHIN THE SAME WALKING STICK.

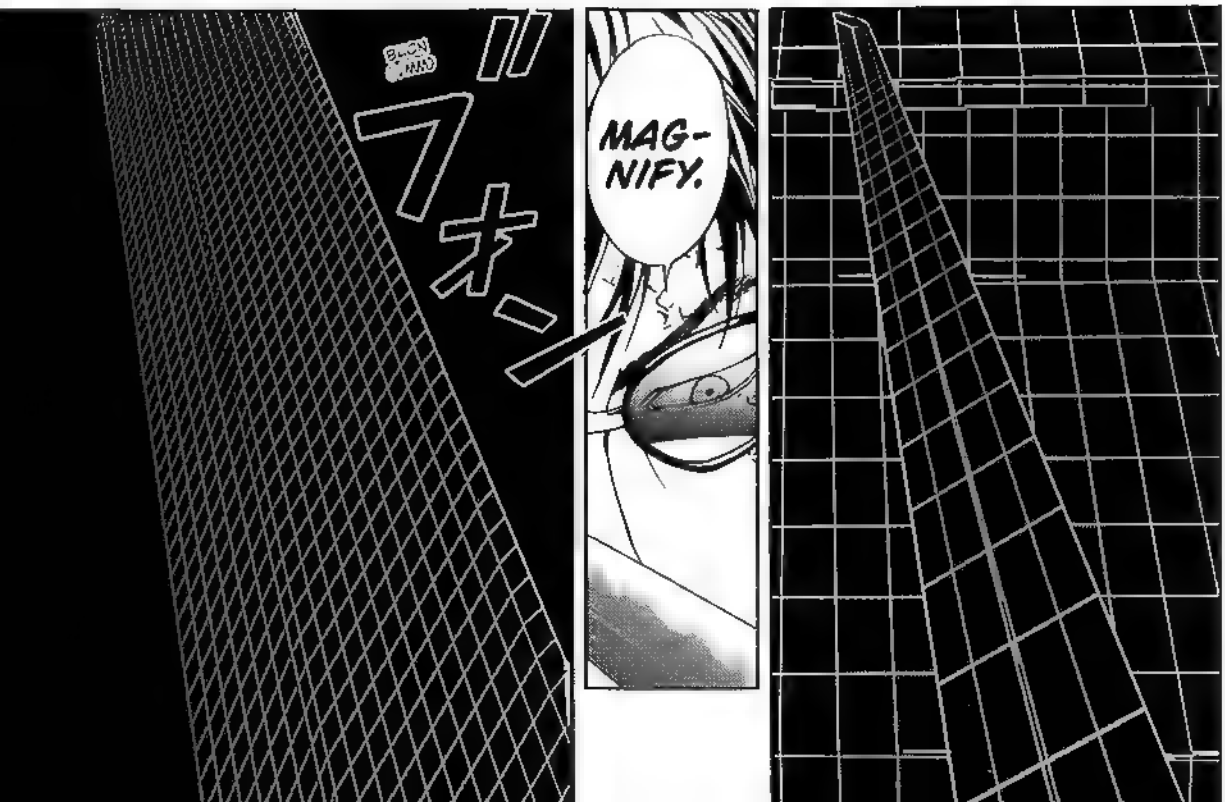
WHOA...
GARA
GARA
GARA
THEY'RE MASTERPIECES OF MODERN BLACKSMITHING. THESE AREN'T MASS-PRODUCED INDUSTRIAL MODELS.
THEY'RE MADE TO FIT WITHIN THE SAME WALKING STICK.

WAIT, ONLY TWO?
YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO COME BACK WITH AN ARM-FUL OF THE THINGS.

DANZAI... "CONVICTION"?
BLADE: DANZAI
IT MEANS "CUT THE CRIME."
IN OTHER WORDS, TO JUDGE OR CONVICT THE GUILTY.
THE BLADESMITH MADE THIS ACCORDING TO HIS OWN TASTES...
SWORD OF CONVICTION, HUH? SOUNDS IMPRESSIVE.
.....

I'VE NEVER MET THE GUY IN PERSON, BUT KATANA PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED. YOU CAN'T MAKE ONE WITHOUT REGISTERING IT.
THE FACT THAT HE FORGED THIS SWORD UNDER THE TABLE FOR ME...

I GET IT.
HE WAS A CRIME VICTIM HIMSELF.
...


フォン
MAG-NIFY.

...
IT WAS A RUSH JOB...
...BUT IT'S AS PRECISE AS EVER ...
TON (TAP)
TON
TON
TON
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
SHU (SHHH)
シュ

WHAT'S THE PLAN?
GONNA SHARPEN IT.
?
THE MONOLAYER DOESN'T MAKE A BIT OF DIFFER-ENCE...
...IF IT AIN'T SHARP TO BEGIN WITH.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SHARPEN THAT SWORD.
SHI (SHARP)

…
ズ
(SLIDE)
スッ
…

THIS IS FOR YOU.
CAN YOU READ IT?
I TOLD HIM NOT TO LEAVE ANY PROOF OF CONTACT.
...IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO TOUGH...

Normally, a katana possesses a specific thickness, weight, and curvature that compose its greatest strength: the durability of the blade.
I have never created such a light, straight, razor-like katana, even if it is easier to carry and cuts to your purposes.
I trust in your skill, and thus I will not persuade you not to use it, but...
You must exercise caution.

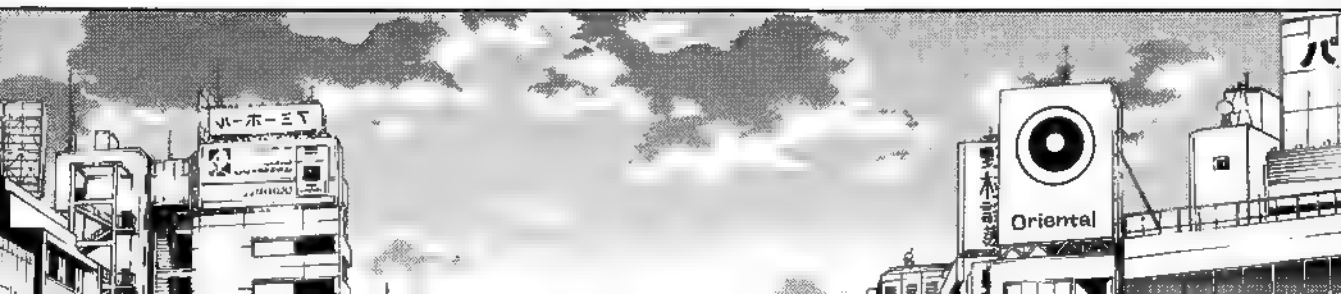
ガイヤッ

AND THERE YOU HAVE IT.

GOT ANOTHER DETOUR TO MAKE.

クルリ
KURU (SPIN)

?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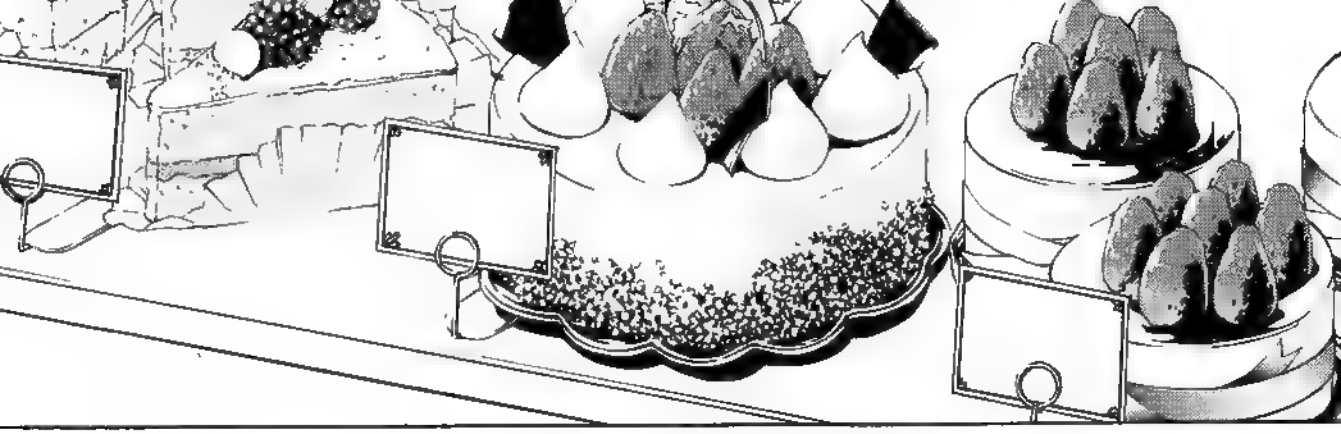
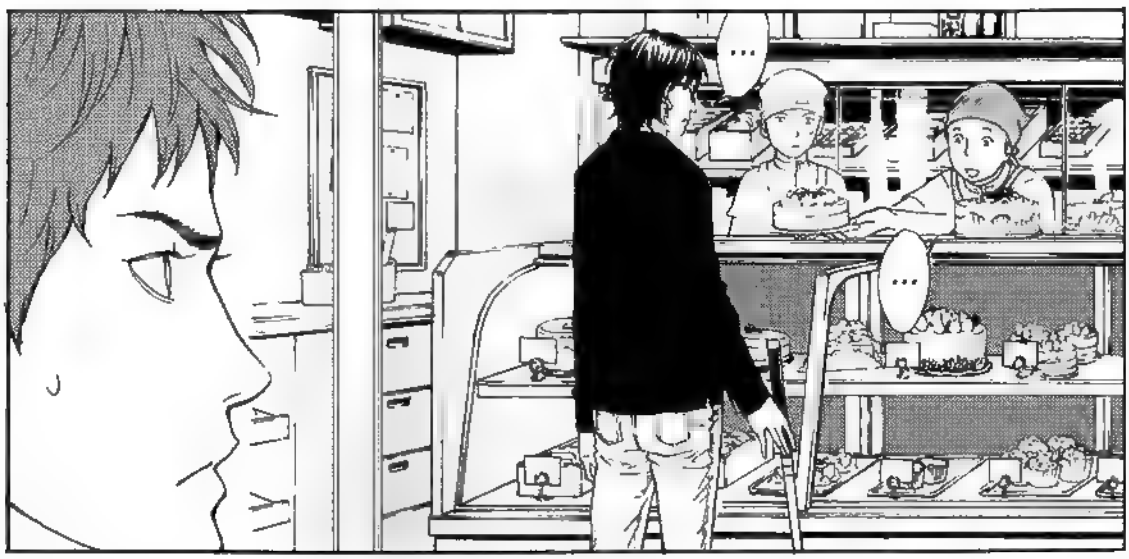
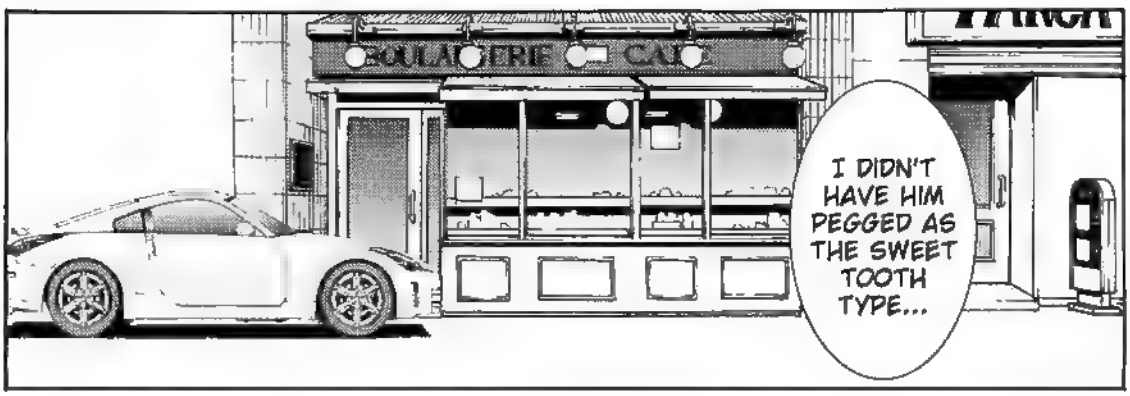
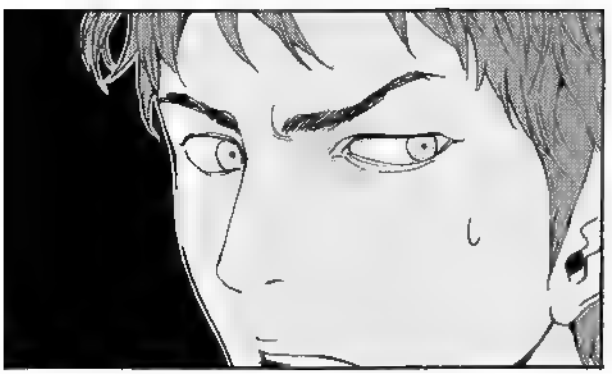



...
...


I DIDN'T HAVE HIM PEGGED AS THE SWEET TOOTH TYPE...

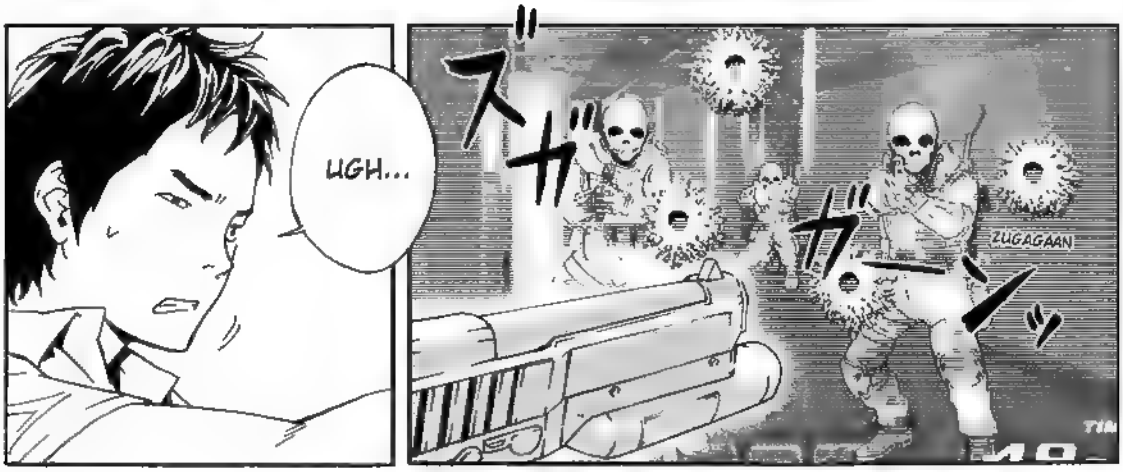


Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 55

CLUB SEKA
AND?
DON (BLAM)
ZUGAAN
PIKYUN (PYEEW)
ZUGAAN (KBOOM)
GAYA (YAMMER)
GAYA
KACHA (CLICK)
KACHA
IT WAS PRETTY BAD, HUH?
DON
DODON

...
YEAH
...
DON
DON


UGH...
ZUGAGAAN

I TOLD YOU TO KNOCK THAT SHIT OFF, MAKO-CHAN.
YOU SEE?
GACHA (CLICK)

I ACTUALLY TRUSTED THEM. I THOUGHT WE WERE BROS.

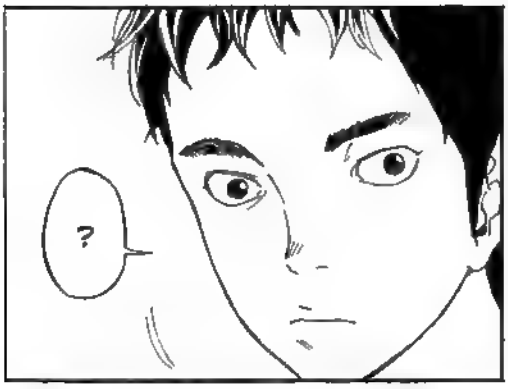
...AND I TOLD YOU, I'M TOO OLD FOR "MAKO-CHAN," JUN.

ARE YOU GONNA USE THAT AS AN EXCUSE?
YOUR MOM BROKE DOWN CRYING, MAN.

TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST CLEAN UP AND GO TO HIGH SCHOOL?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP HANGING WITH THAT CROWD.

MAN, YOU DON'T HOLD BACK, DO YOU?
LOOK, THERE'S A PATTERN TO THESE THINGS—PEOPLE FLATTER YOU BECAUSE YOU CAN FIGHT, THEN THEY BLOW HOT AIR UP YOUR ASS, AND THEN ABANDON YOU WHEN YOU NEED HELP.
AND IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR LETTING YOURSELF GET CARRIED AWAY, MAKOTO-KUN.
I ALREADY GOT A PRETTY HARSH LESSON IN WHAT A DUMB PUNK I'VE BEEN.
!?
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, ACTING LIKE A STUPID-ASS BREAK-IN ARTIST?


?

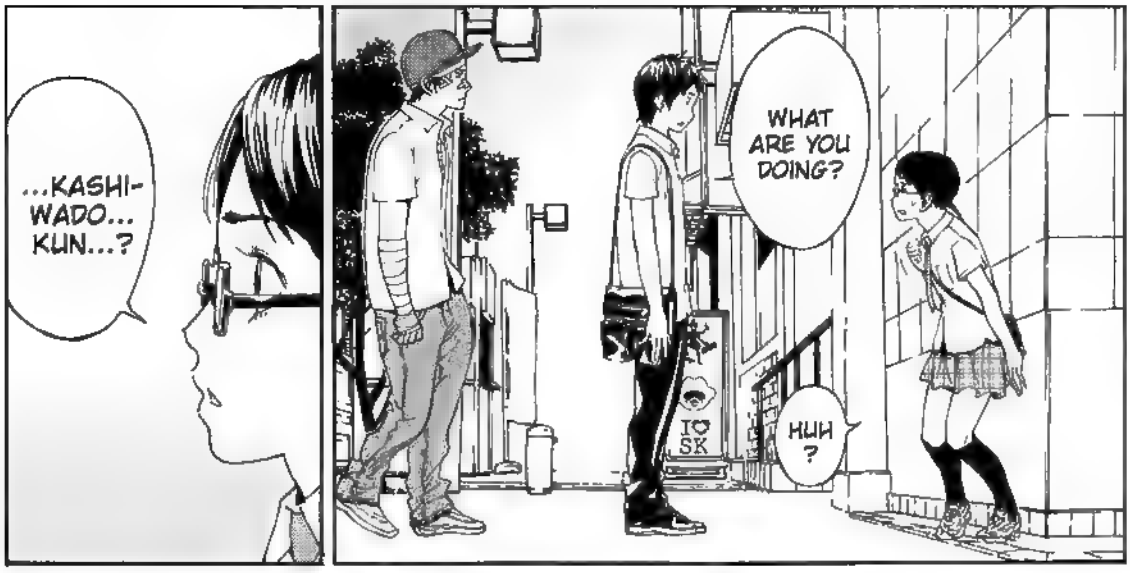
TCH!

MATOBA?

!!?
SASA (SWISH)

!?

IS THAT... TACHIBANA ???
?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
?
EEEEK!
BIKUU (FLINCH)
ビクッ
!?
HEY.
ポン
PON (PAT)


...KASHI-WADO... KUN...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I♡SK
HUH?

...IF YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM MATOBA, YOU SHOULD JUST GO TELL HER.
IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF HER TOUGH-LOOKING FRIENDS, WE'LL GO WITH YOU.

DO YOU THINK SOME-THING'S UP?
?
I DON'T WANNA SEE THOSE BACK-STABBING BASTARDS.

ポリ
PORI
ポリ
PORI (SCRATCH)
WELL, Y'KNOW...
...I SAW YOU WATCHING HER ALL THROUGH CLASS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
.....
...HE WAS WATCHING ME DURING CLASS?

AHH, DAMN... I WISH I HAD MONEY.

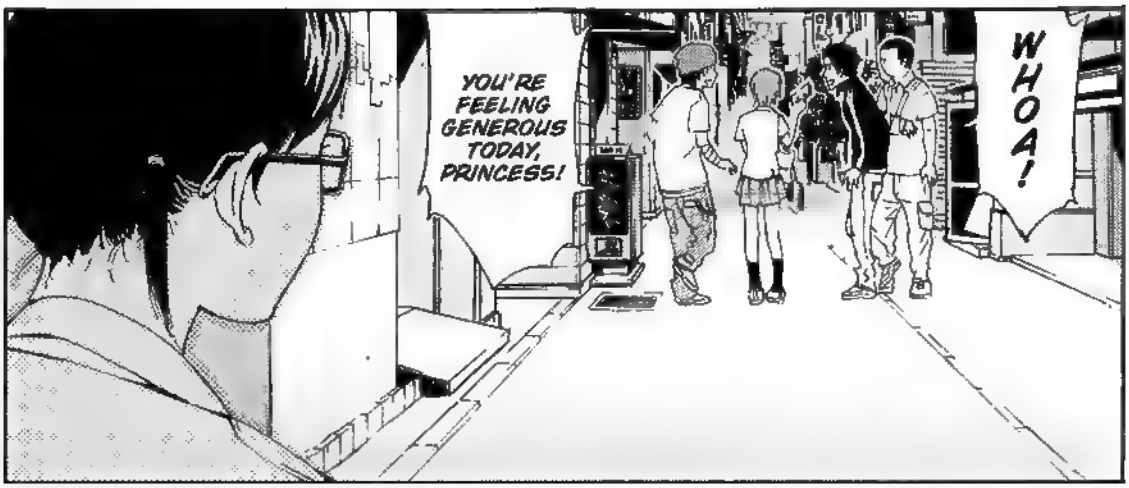
WHAT IF SAMURAI-MAN SHOWS UP AGAIN?

YOU GONNA HIT UP ANOTHER PLACE?

THAT'S THE THING...
IT AIN'T WORTH IT IF HE COMES AFTER US AGAIN.

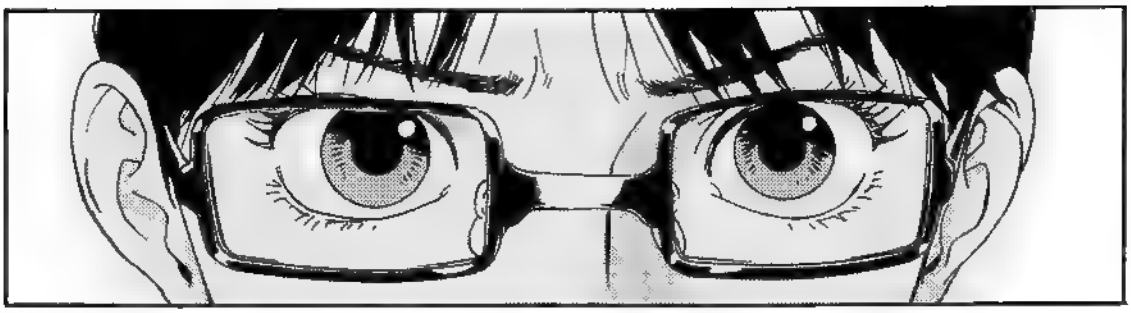
HE SOUNDS LIKE A NAMAHAGE, COMING TO PUNISH BAD KIDS...

WANT TO TAKE OUT A LOAN?
DON'T LAUGH. WE COULD GET KILLED!


YOU'RE FEELING GENEROUS TODAY, PRINCESS!
WHOA!

WHY DOES SHE HAVE SO MUCH MONEY?
HER DAD'S SOME KIND OF YAKUZA BIGSHOT.
SO HER SENSE OF THE VALUE OF MONEY IS ALL SCREWY.
HUH?
!?
AND SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE AT HOME, SO SHE'LL JUST HANG OUT UNTIL ALL HOURS.

SHE'S FAMOUS AROUND HERE. NOBODY'S STUPID ENOUGH TO MESS WITH A YAKUZA'S DAUGHTER.
YOU COULD BE IN DANGER JUST BY BEING IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.
ISN'T IT DANGER-OUS FOR A GIRL TO BE ALONE LIKE THAT!?
I'VE NEVER HEARD ANY OF THIS AT SCHOOL...
DOES THAT MEAN THE VISION I HAD...



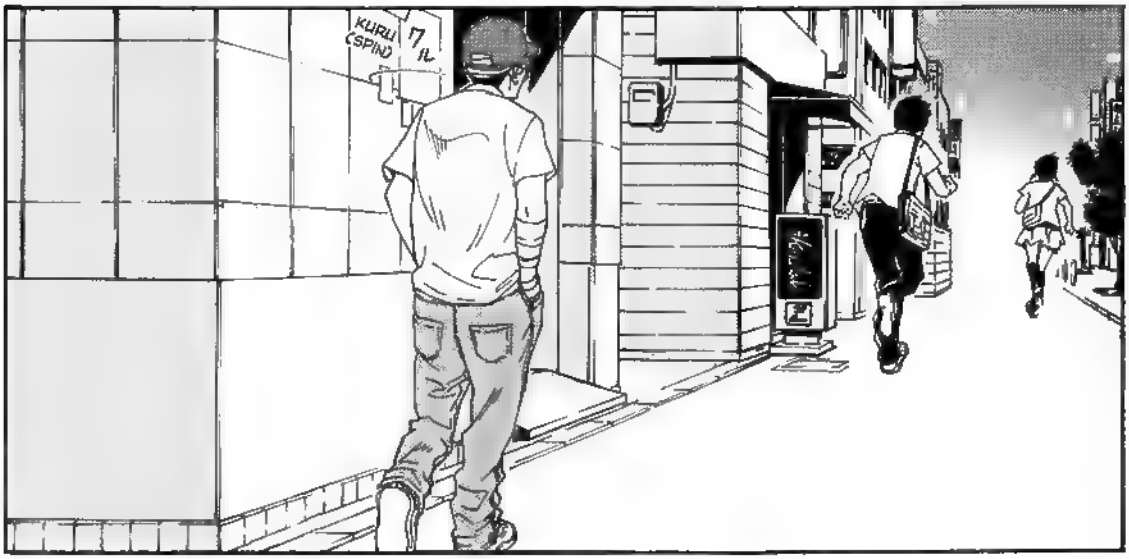
ダッ
DA (DASH)

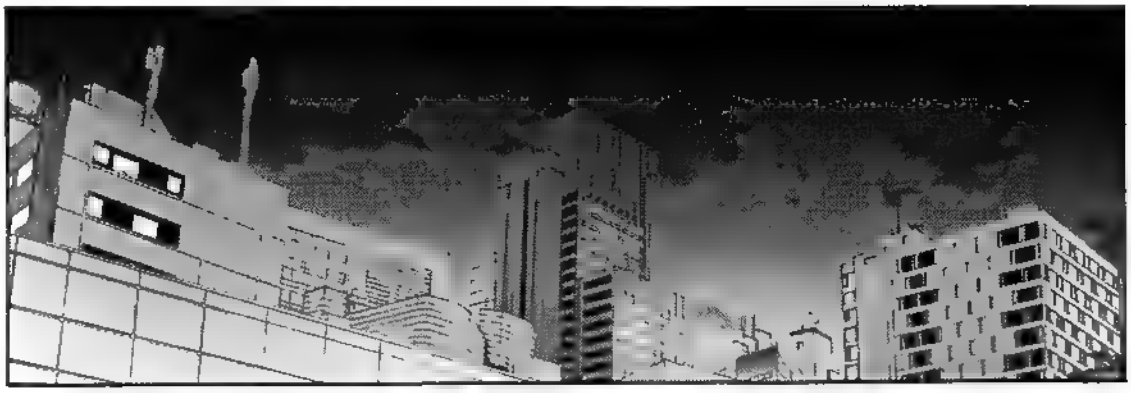
AH!
HEY, TACHI-BANA!

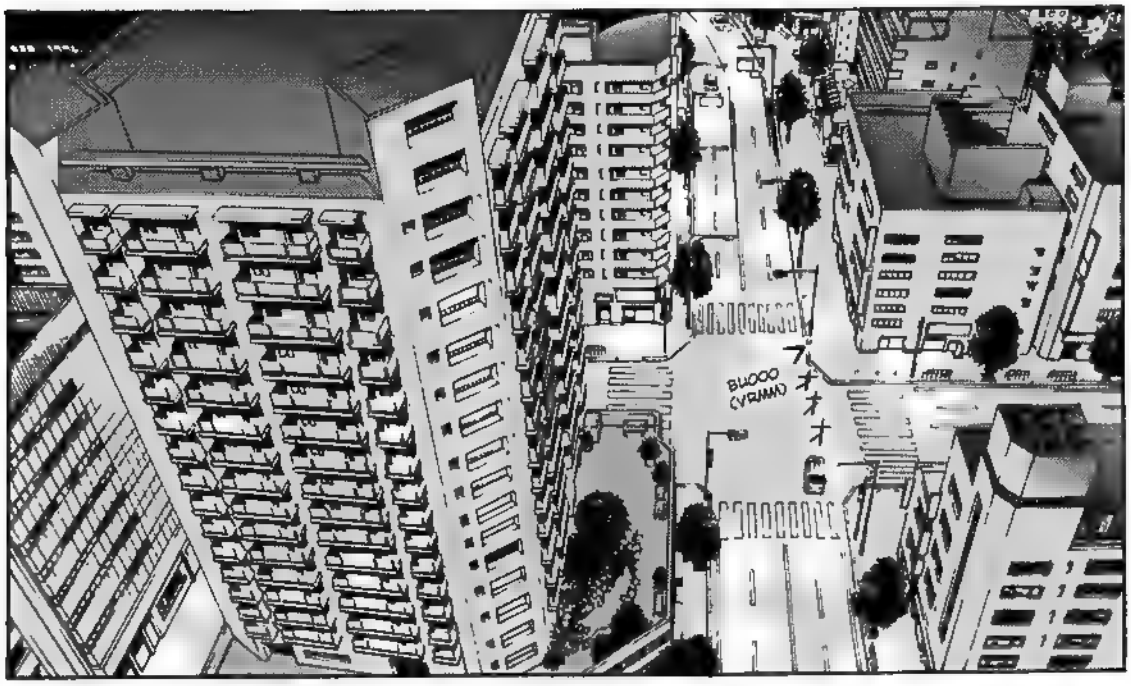
...

...

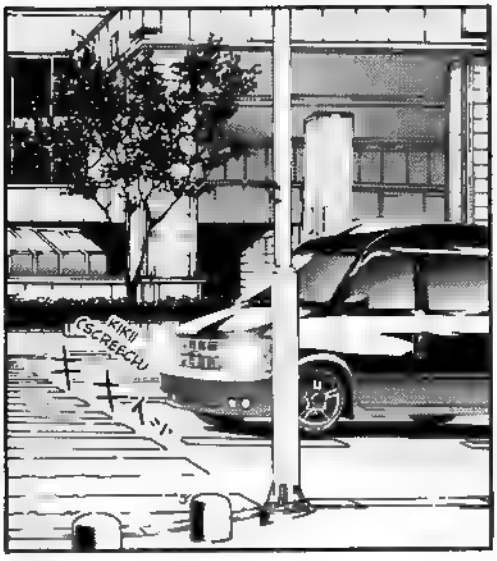
TCH!

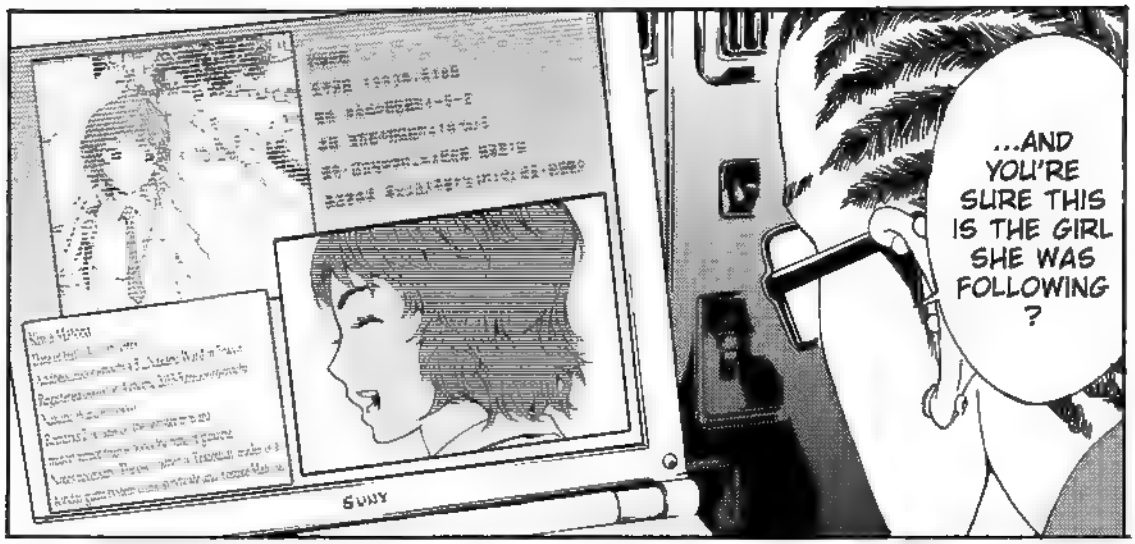

KURU
(SPIN)
7
11

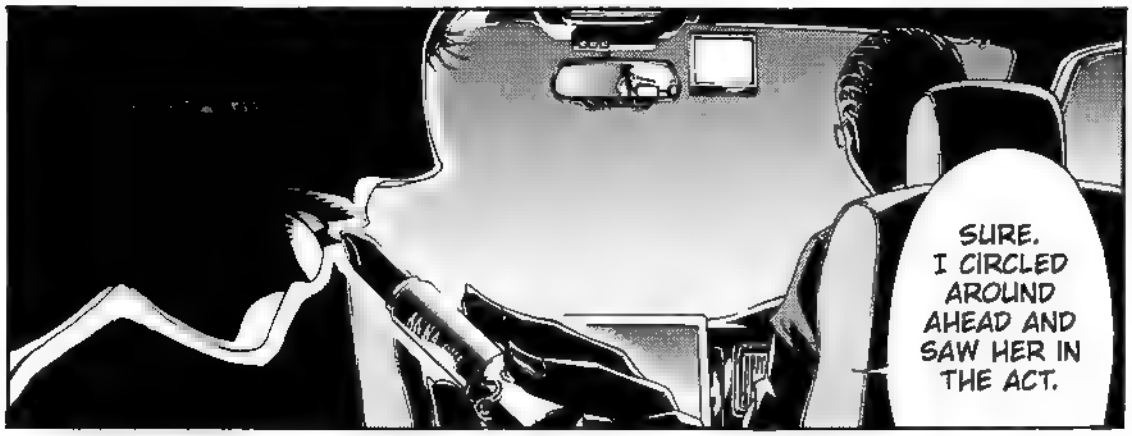


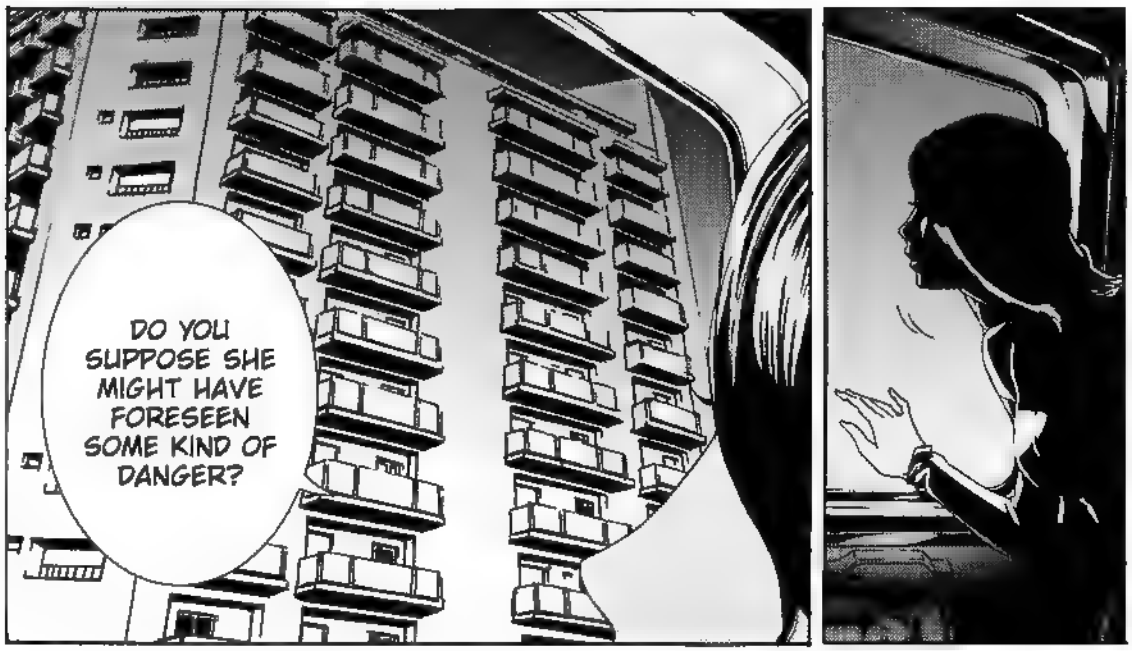

ブオオオ
BUOOO (VROOM)

…


KIKI!! (SCREECH)
キキーッ!!


...AND YOU'RE SURE THIS IS THE GIRL SHE WAS FOLLOWING ?


SURE. I CIRCLED AROUND AHEAD AND SAW HER IN THE ACT.


DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE MIGHT HAVE FORESEEN SOME KIND OF DANGER?

カタ KATA
カタ KATA
カタ KATA
ピッ (CLICK)
WELL, IF IT'S TRUE, HER DAD'S A DANGEROUS FIGURE.
SOMEONE WANTS TO STOMP OUT A FIRE BEFORE IT STARTS.
カタ KATA (TAP)
カタ KATA
カタ KATA
AFTER THE RECENT SQUABBLES, THESE FOLKS ARE GONNA BE ON HIGH ALERT.
YOSUKE MATOBA—HEAD OF TEKIOUKAI, A POWERFUL BRANCH OF THE KINDAI-GUMI SYNDICATE.
YOU SURE YOU'RE GONNA BE—
ガチャ GACHA (CLICK)

WHOA!!

JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH THE SHOW.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WAS A MASTER OF INFIL-TRATION?

EEEEK!
ビクッ!
BIKUU (FLINCH)
!?

Until
Death
do us
Part

You sure you're okay?
I'LL BE FINE.
THEY BRING IN A WOMAN FROM A DESIGNATED LOCATION EVERY WEEK AT THIS TIME.
コツ
KO (TOK)
YOU RESEARCHED THIS...?
コツ
KO

ピッ
PI
(BEEP)
1F
B1
KO
(TOK)
コッ
コッ
KO
...I GUESS THE POWERFUL AND EVIL LIVING IN LUXURY IS A UNIVERSAL CONSTANT ...

ウィィィン (WHEE)
AN ISOLATED TOP FLOOR PENTHOUSE DOES SEEM LIKE THE PERFECT FORTRESS TO DEFEND.
...BUT HOW FAR WILL YOUR SECURITY GO WHEN IT COMES UP AGAINST TRAINED PROFES-SIONALS...?
chapter 56

ウィィィィン
UIIIIN (VWEE)
チャッ
CHA (CHK)
HANDS UP.

AND... THIS IS WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF.
THIS IS WHAT YOUR SECURITY GETS YOU...?

MATOBA-SAN!
?
WHAT'S THIS? A FRIEND OF YOURS?
HUH? I GUESS.
?
...TACHI-BANA ...?
WHAT IS IT?

I'D LIKE TO TALK.
?
?
UMM ...
WELL ...
AWW, COME ON. SHE'S CUTE!
UM, I JUST...
???
I'M NOT REALLY...
KNOCK IT OFF.
SHE'S A SERIOUS KID, NOT LIKE ME.

KASHI-
WADO?
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?

...WHO'S
THE TOILET
PAPER SHE'S
DRAGGING
ALONG...?

...
BEAT
IT...

HE'S
SOME
COCKY
LITTLE
SHIT.
FUCK
OFF
BEFORE
I BEAT
YOUR
ASS.

STEP
THE
FUCK
OFF!!

TAAH !!
DOGA (STOMP)
GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE, CHUMPS!
WE GOT BUSINESS WITH KIWA.
SHI (SHOO)
SHI
HUH ?
MAKO-CHAN !?
GAHH !!
ZAZAA (SCRAPE)

GET HIM !!
WE'LL PUT YOU BACK IN THE HOSPI-TAL!!
YOU THINK YOU'RE TOUGH !?
ASS-HOLE !!
I AIN'T LIVIN' LIKE YOU SHIT-HEADS NO MORE!!
DOSU (THUMP)
URGH!
SHUT UP!
ZA (SWISH)
BUN (WHOOSH)
I'M GONNA BE A TOTAL BADASS LIKE THAT SAMURAI !!

HUH !?
AAAAH !!
H-HANG ON!!
YOU BITCH!
BAKI (CRAK)
UGH!
LET'S TAG-TEAM THESE GUYS!!
NICE WORK, MAKO-CHAN!
HUH !?

...
...
WAA
CRAHH
WAA

...WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU MUST BE A BUSY MAN, BOSS MATOBA. A CALL GIRL ALREADY? IT'S BARELY AFTER DINNER.
EEK!
DOSA (SHOVE)
SIT NEXT TO HIM.
...

...ALL THE OTHERS ARE INTER-NATIONAL ...
PROBABLY HALF-TRAINED MERCE-NARIES ...
NOW, CAN WE GET A POSITIVE ANSWER FROM YOU...
... BEFORE THINGS HAVE TO GET UGLY?
...I CANNOT TURN MY BACK ON THE KINDAI LEADER!

YOUR FIRST WIFE, YOUR SECOND WIFE, YOUR THREE SONS, YOUR DAUGHTER... ALL OF THEM.
IF YOU DON'T PLAY ALONG ...
...YOUR FAMILY SHUFFLES OFF THIS MORTAL COIL, ONE AT A TIME.
IS HIS DAUGHTER ALREADY MARKED FOR TER-MINATION !?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN !?
WHERE'S YOUR FUCKING HONOR!?
YOU BRING ARMS INTO A CONFLICT BETWEEN YAKUZA HEADS AND EVEN GET MY FAMILY INVOLVED!?
YOU BASTARD!

PASHU (PSHOO)
BASU (THUKK)

YOU THINK YOU CAN BROWBEAT US INTO SUBMISSION AT THIS POINT!?
SHUT YOUR TRAP.

AAAGH!!

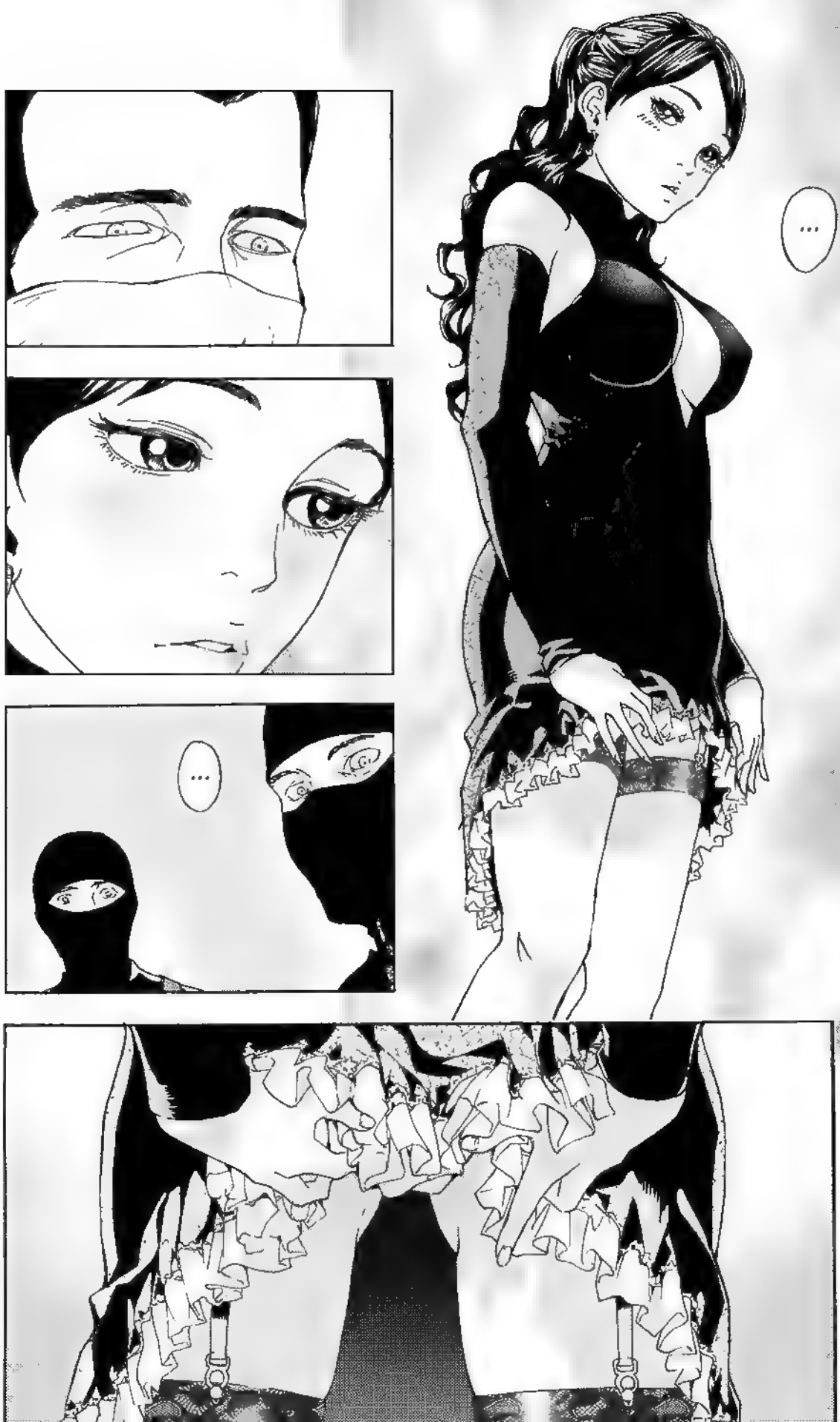
...
ピッ
PI (BEEP)
...
UNNGH ...
RRRR!
RRRR!

I WARNED YOU. YOUR SECOND SON WAS THE FIRST TO GO.
WHAT !?

WE'RE NOT THE PATIENT TYPE.

YOU SHOULDA MADE UP YOUR MIND.

スッ
SU (RISE)
CHA
CHA (CHIK)
LOOKS LIKE I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT AND WATCH...
ONLY IF YOU DO IT RIGHT THERE.
WHAT ?
CAN I GO... TO THE BATH-ROOM?
...UMM... OKAY...



HYUBA
(SWOOSH)

KA (THUK)
DOSU (WHUMP)
PASHU
PASHU (PSHU)
GABA (SNAG)
PASHU

PASHU (PSHOO)
PASHU
...
YOU... BITCH...
DOSA (THUD)
DOSA

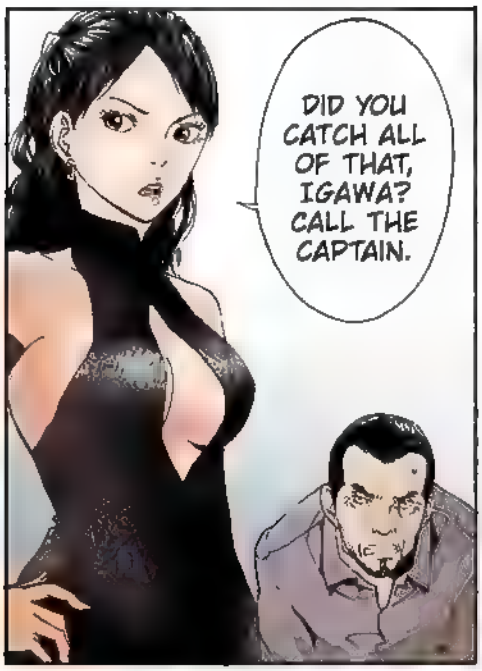
WHAT DO YOU WANT!?
...AS LONG AS YOU WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING LONG AND HARD.
YOU WANT A SHOW? I'LL GIVE YOU ONE...
WHAT'S THE SCALE? WHO'S BEHIND IT!?
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
IT'S THE JINRYUU-KAI! IT MUST BE!
THEY'RE THE SWORN ENEMIES OF THE KINDAI-GUMI!!

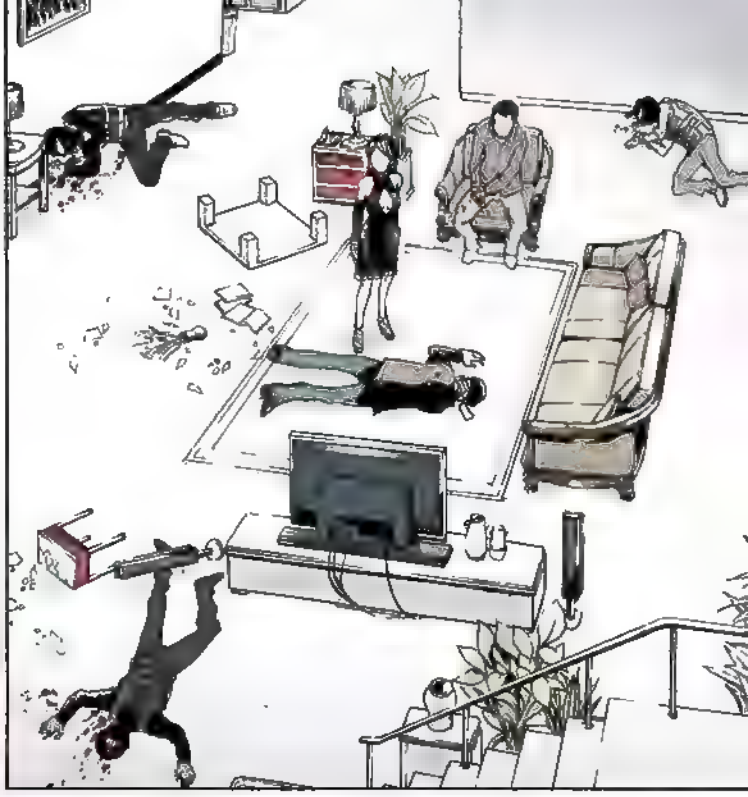
...
IT'S FAR TOO INVOLVED AND EXTREME FOR A YAKUZA QUARREL!
THIS ISN'T YOUR SMALL-TIME MOBSTER CRAP!
OWW ...
JUUU (FZZ)
ズウウウ
NOW, SPEAK!
WHAT OTHER TEAMS ARE YOU WORKING WITH!?
IF YOU DON'T CALL OFF YOUR OPERATION, YOU'RE GOING TO DIE !!
AAAAAAH!!

I SWEAR, I DON'T KNOW WHO HIRED US.
WE GOT HALF UP FRONT, AND THE REST COMES AFTER.
I...I DON'T KNOW ...
THERE ARE TWO COMMANDO TEAMS... BUT WE CAN'T MAKE CONTACT WITH THEM.
ONCE WE STARTED, THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK.
ドカッ
DOKA (SLAM)
AGH!

スッ
SU (SLIP)
PHONE: CALL HISTORY / UNLISTED NUMBER
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE AFTER...
...
WHOEVER PLANNED THIS WAS THOROUGH.
PAPAN (FLIP)
パパーン
通話履歴
非通知設定
OK
THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED ...
...BUT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOUR FAMILY GO UNHARMED.
!?

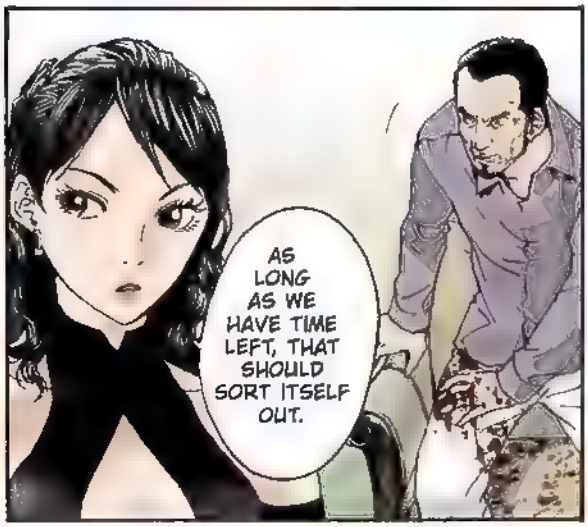
Until
Death
do us
Part


DID YOU CATCH ALL OF THAT, IGAWA? CALL THE CAPTAIN.



BUT ISN'T THAT GUY'S DAUGHTER, KIWA, THE ONE IN TROUBLE NOW? THE ONE HARUKA'S WITH?
ALREADY DONE. HE'S ARRANGING FOR SUPPORT.

HUH?


AS LONG AS WE HAVE TIME LEFT, THAT SHOULD SORT ITSELF OUT.

chapter 57

chapter 57

OH, HE'S GONNA GET IT...
PI (BEEP)
SHIT...
HYOI (WHISK)
!?
SO I'M GOING TO ASK ...
IF YOU RETALIATE, THIS IS ALL GOING TO GET MUCH WORSE.
POI (TOSS)
WH- WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?

DOSA (FLOP)
HRRG !!
DOSU (THWUMP)
SHEESH ...
...YOU TO TAKE A LITTLE NAP!

ウィ
UHIN (UWEE)
TRUST ME, HE'S IN HEAVEN.
THAT WAS FAST ...
IGAWA, GIVE THE POLICE AND PARAMEDICS SOME EXCUSE TO VISIT.

AHH!
TAKE THIS!
...

IT'S STILL COMING ...?
...THIS IS WRONG...
WE SHOULD BE WELL PAST THE POINT IN TIME WHEN SHE GETS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE, SO WHY...???

NO!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
SHE'S NOT A BYSTANDER CAUGHT IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME...
I HAD THE WRONG IDEA...
?

HUH?
SHE'S BEING TARGETED SPECIFI-CALLY!
DADA (DASH)
.....
HMM?
?
HEY!
WHAT'S UP?

SASA (SNEAK)
(ZIP)
.....
H-HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?

TO GAIN AN ADVANTAGE, YOU NEED TO MAKE USE OF THE TERRITORY.
LURE THE ENEMY INTO A LOCATION THAT SUITS YOU BETTER THAN HIM.
SOMEPLACE THAT WON'T INVOLVE OTHERS... THAT'S EASY TO DEFEND ...
PITA (FREEZE)
?
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON!?
DADA (DASH)

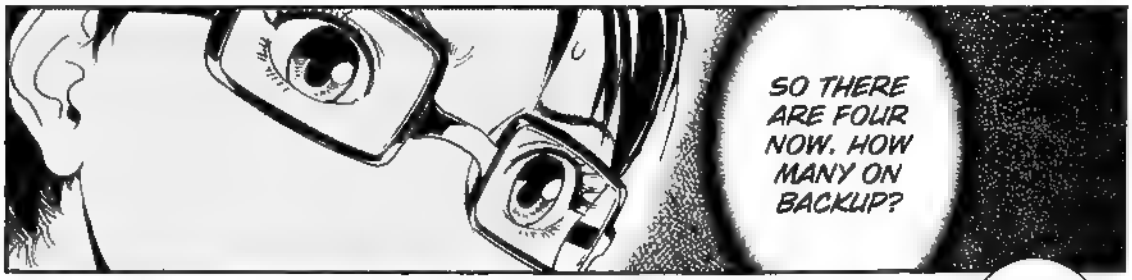
EXPLAIN YOURSELF, TACHIBANA!
IF YOU DON'T START MAKING SENSE, I'M GOING TO BE REALLY MAD!
BA (SLAP)
!
UH... UM...
I'M ASSUMING YOU MUST HAVE YOUR REASONS ...
...
THERE WAS A PERSON IN THAT CROWD WHO WAS POINTING A GUN AT YOU.

...
IS IT SOME-THING TO DO WITH DAD?
A GUN...?
HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL!?
AWW, GEEZ...
SO MUCH FOR KEEPING PEOPLE OUT OF TROU-BLE...!

TA (TEK)
TA
?
WH-WHAT?
L-LET'S GO UP FOR NOW.
YOU'RE SURE?
ZA (STOMP)
DAMN, DID HE GET LOST? CALL HIM UP.
WE'RE MISSING ONE MAN.
YEAH, SAW 'EM GO IN HERE.

TARGET'S IN THE APARTMENT OFF THE MAIN ROAD THAT'S UNDER CONSTRUC-TION.
... I'll be right there.
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU?
OH SHIT... WE CAN'T HANDLE THESE GUYS...
WHOA... ARE THOSE GUNS... REAL ...?
... YOU'RE RIGHT ...

LET'S SEE... TWO RIFLES ...
TWO HAND-GUNS ...
...


SO THERE ARE FOUR NOW. HOW MANY ON BACKUP?

I KNOW, I KNOW, I KNOW...
...YOU'RE DEAD.
ALWAYS BE THINKING. THE MOMENT YOU STOP THINKING...

...
?
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT THE GROUP ...

ACCORDING TO THE CAPTAIN'S INTEL, THE SECOND SON'S ALREADY GONE MISSING.
BUOOO (VRRRM)

FUCK!
DON (WHAM)
IF IT'S TRUE, THEN MAYBE THEIR THREAT WAS REAL ...

I LEFT KILO BEHIND.

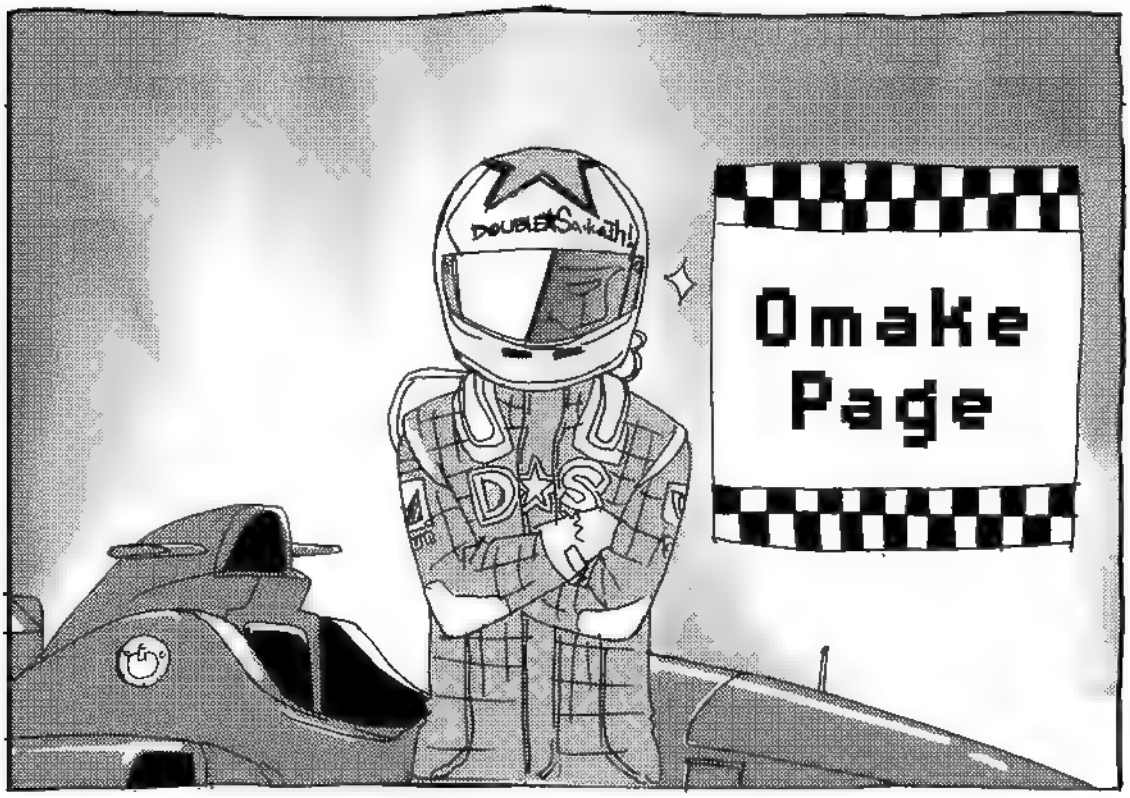
HEY, WHAT WAS YOUR BASIS FOR SAYING WE COULD BUY OURSELVES SOME TIME?
AS LONG AS NOTHING HAPPENS TO HARUKA IN THE END...

...AND IF ANYONE'S STUPID ENOUGH TO GET TOO CLOSE...
HUH?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, HE MIGHT BE THE TOP INFILTRATION AGENT ON THE TEAM.
HE'LL BE GUARDING HER REAR RIGHT NOW...
YOU SERIOUS ?
...
PATAN (FLIP)
...I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

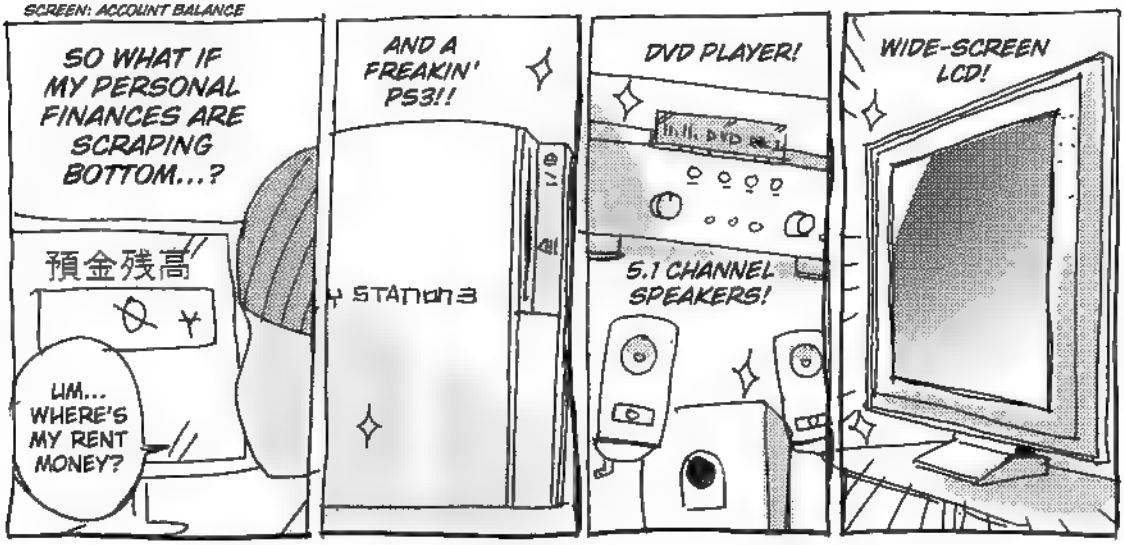
MUCH OBLIGED.

ZURU
DOSU (THUDD)
!
I NEED BACKUP...
I DON'T LIKE IT... I CAN'T HANDLE A GROUP THIS SIZE BY MYSELF...
PI (BEEP)
PI

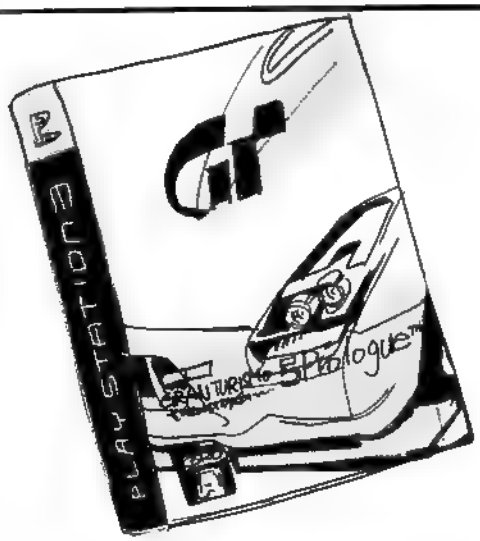
Until
Death
do us
Part



IT'S THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, Y'ALL! AND FINALLY, FINALLY, TIME HAS SWEPT UP THE OFFICE OF DOUBLE-S IN ITS MOVING EMBRACE, AS HE IS NO LONGER THE ONLY MANGA ARTIST IN EXISTENCE WITHOUT A GAME CONSOLE!!



"GRAN TURISMO 5 PROLOGUE"!! (I WAS TEMPTED BY AN EVIL FRIEND)



BUT WHAT COULD HAVE MADE UP THE MIND OF A MAN WHO WAS TOTALLY DISINTERESTED IN GAMES, MUCH LESS AN ENTIRE HOME THEATER? THE ANSWER IS... THIS!!

ANTI-FREEZE AND ENGINE OIL RUNS IN MY VEINS!!

"GT5" RULES !!

RAHHHH!

SHOCKING INTER-VIEW!! Manga Artist DOUBLE-S Confesses: "I always wanted to be a racer!"

WHAT WAS I LIVING FOR, ALL THIS TIME?

HOW DID I LIVE WITHOUT THIS?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! WE JUST HAVE TO DRIVE TO OUR DEATHS, OLD FRIEND!

EVIL FRIEND

THE POINT IS... "GRAN TURISMO 5" RULES!

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THE RUMORS THAT YOU GOT YOUR LICENSE TEN YEARS AGO BUT HAVEN'T USED IT IN OVER FIVE YEARS, CAUSING THE PLASTIC TO BECOME FUSED INTO YOUR WALLET?

NO COM-MENT.

Q: IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT DO RACING AND SPEED MEAN?

I'D HAVE TO SAY...

... LIFE?

SHE'S NUTS FOR BARBECUE!
EEK! ♡
I JUST LOVE MEAT!
WHY MEAT? ON OUR FIRST MEETING?
WE HAVE ANOTHER NEW ASSISTANT!
PARUSIAREN-CHAN, AGE 22 ♀
NICE TO MEET YOU!
SO, AFTER ANALYZING ALL THE AVAILABLE DATA...
...I CON-CLUDE THAT HER PERFECT SITUA-TION IS...
SHE ALSO LOVES KARAOKE! SHE'S A GOOD SINGER!
I'D LOVE TO MARRY THE OWNER OF A KARAOKE MACHINE COMPANY! ♡
EEK! ♡
IS SHE DUMB?
A YAKINIKU BARBECUE PARTY INSIDE A KARAOKE ROOM!!!! YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!
HUH?
R-REALLY?
YOU DON'T GET IT?
WELL, SEE YOU NEXT TIME! ♡
BE-CAUSE IT'S NOT TRUE!

Until
Death
do us
Part

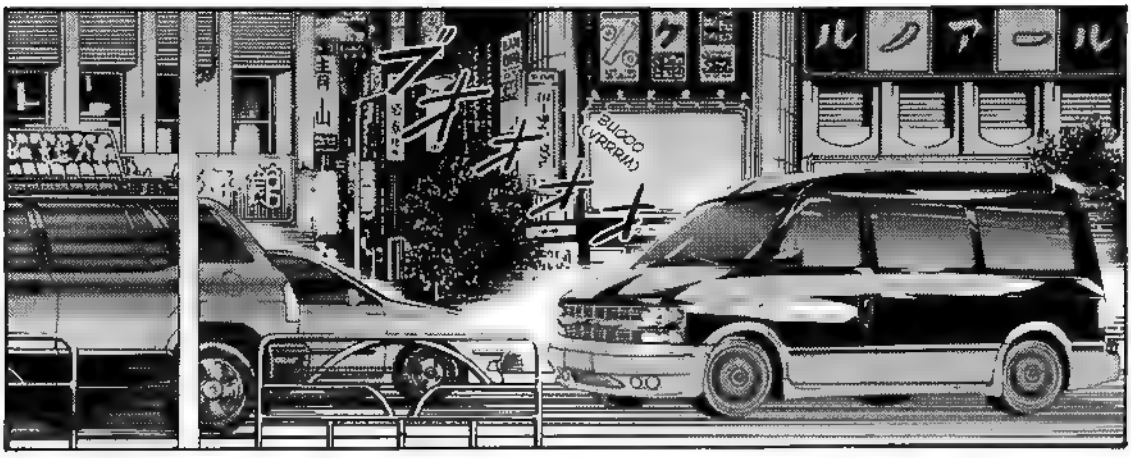
Art Staff
Suri (25) ♀: Chief Assistant
Ryokucha Youkan (23) ♀: Screentones & Background Art
Parusiaren (22) ♀: Screentones & Background Art

Military Advisor
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)

SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

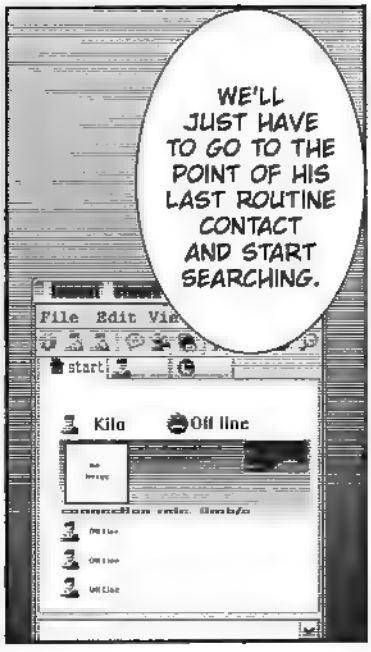
Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 58


ブオオオ
(VRRRUM)

WHAT'S THE PLAN, THEN!?
...NO GOOD! I CAN'T GET AHOLD OF KILO.

GOD-DAMMIT ...


WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO TO THE POINT OF HIS LAST ROUTINE CONTACT AND START SEARCHING.
File Edit
start
Kilo
Off line

This is emer-gency services. What is your emer—
HELLO?

!?

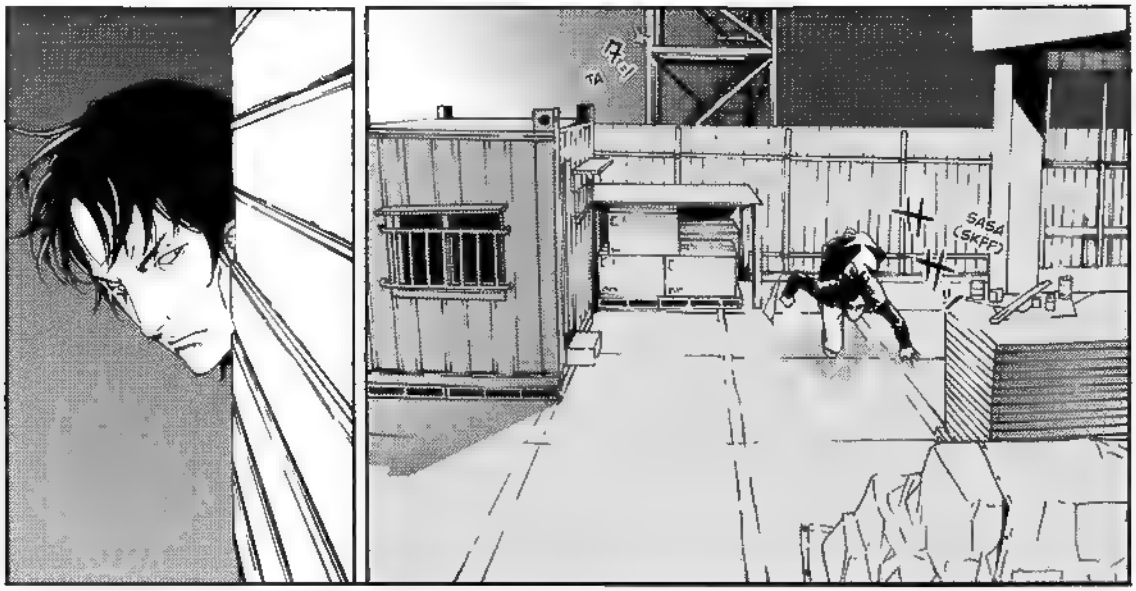
THEY HUNG UP?
...I CAN'T GET THROUGH EITHER ...

...
ブッ
BU (BOOP)
HELLO ?

LISTEN, WHEN YOU'RE PHYSICALLY WEAK AND UNARMED, YOU NEED TO UTILIZE ANYTHING AVAILABLE TO YOU AS A WEAPON IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN.
EVEN A PEBBLE OR A SINGLE PENCIL CAN BE A WEAPON.
...SO I NEED TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS...
I'M THE REASON EVERYONE HERE IS STUCK IN THIS SITUA-TION...

THESE PUNKS ARE SERIOUS...
PATAN (FLIP)
LOCAL SIGNAL JAMMING ...?
MENU
PHONE NO SIGNAL

TA (HOP)


TA
SASA (SKFF)

TALK ABOUT OVER-KILL!

AND NOW THEY BRING IN THE CAVALRY ...

I GUESS THIS IS ALL ME.
WELL, SHIT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
BETTER THAN BEING EMPTY-HANDED.
CHA (SHK)

KO (SCRAPE)

WAIT.
YOU'D RATHER WE DIE WITHOUT A SAY IN IT!?
AND YOU THINK SOME PIPES CAN HELP YOU BEAT GUYS WITH GUNS!?
OKAY?
IF WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT BACK...
...LET'S MAKE IT AS EFFECTIVE AS WE CAN.
...

KO (THUNK)
コッ
KO
コッ

FUCKIN' KIDS!! DON'T WASTE MY—
TCH!
BUN
WHOOSH!
!

HUH !?
JAPA (SCRAPE)
AHH !!
DOGAGAGA (THWUMP)
!
HUH!?
SUPO (POP)

UGH ...
DOGAYA (CRASH)
... HNNG ...
...WHY WERE YOU CARRYING PACHINKO BALLS AROUND?
THEY WORK WONDERS WHEN YOU GET INTO A HUGE BRAWL.
SEEMS LIKE THAT WORKED ...
YEAH.
ザワ (MURMUR)
ザワ

WELL, IT ALL WORKED OUT JUST AS TACHIBANA-SAN SAID.
WE CAN KEEP GOING UP FROM FLOOR TO FLOOR...
LET'S GO UP.
YEAH.
...BUT HOW LONG CAN WE KEEP FOOLING THEM?

SnSA
SnSW
...HMM?
I REC-
OGNIZE
HIM...
THAT GUY
WAS IN THE
GROUP THAT
ATTACKED
BLADE...

HUH?

HEY.
BA-KYUP
!?

WHAT'S THE PROB-LEM...?
OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT THERE'S NO MONEY IN KILLING HIS DAUGHTER'S LITTLE FRIENDS.

YOU REALLY GONNA TAKE OUT ALL OF THOSE KIDS?

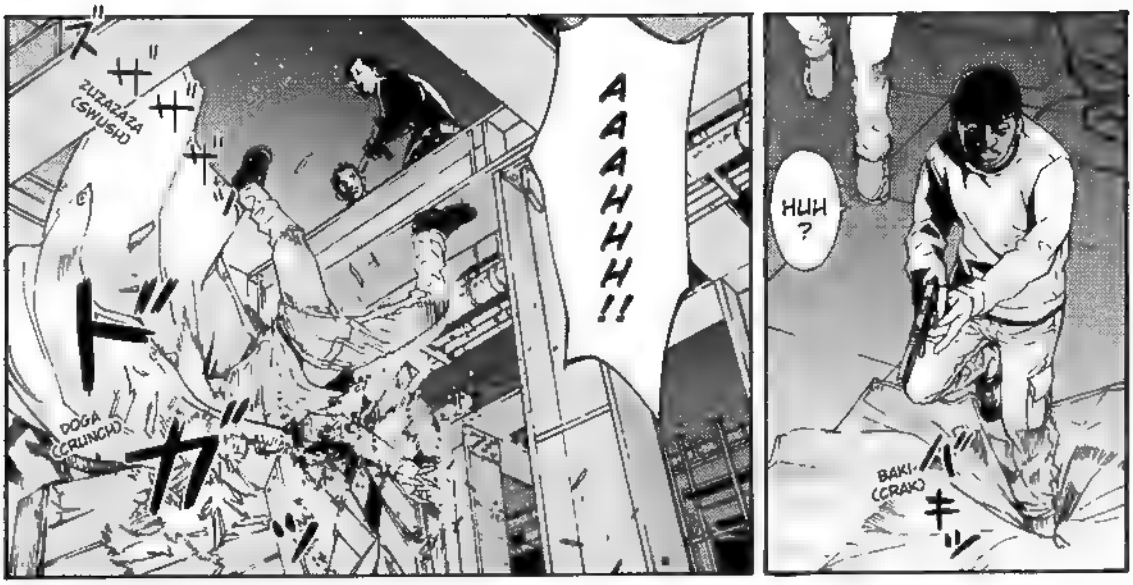
OH, IT'S YOU...

MUCH OBLIGED.
THEN HARUKA ISN'T THE ONE THEY'RE AFTER...

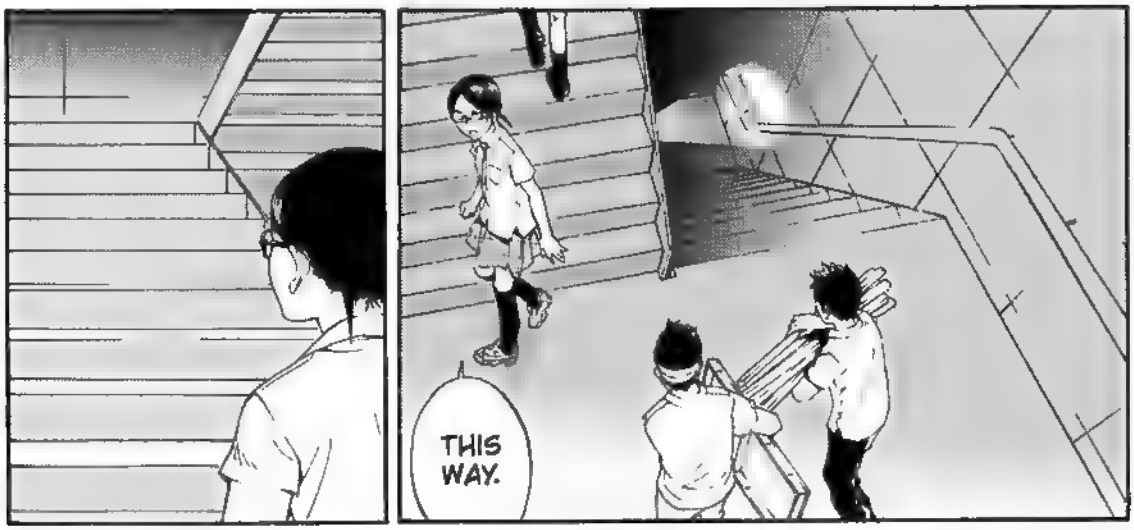
HYU
(SWISH)
DOSU
(WHAM)
HUH?
GUI
(TUG)
DOGA
(THWAM)

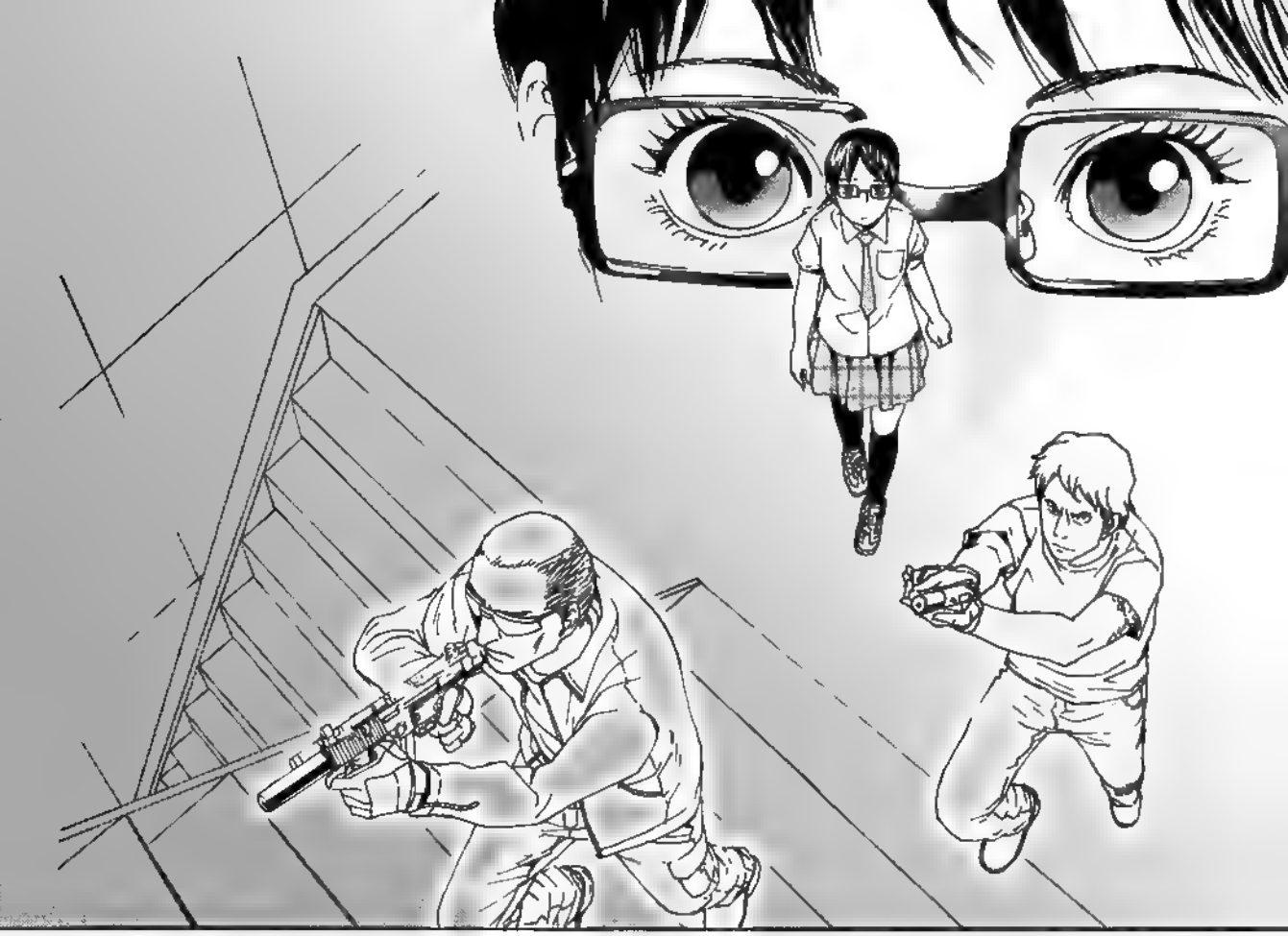
DOKO
(THWAK)
DOSA
(WHUMP)
TA
(TEK)
...SHE'S ACTUALLY IN MORE DANGER...
BUT THAT MEANS ...

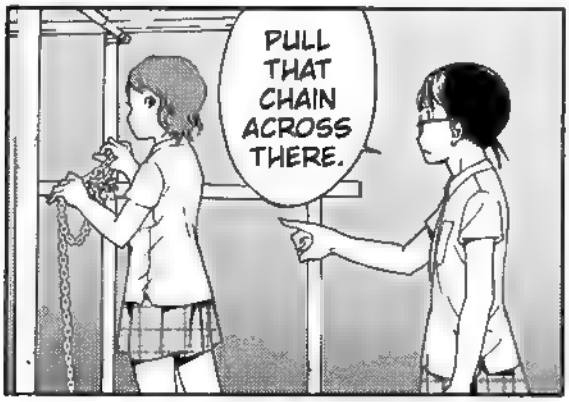
WHY THE HELL DID I STAY BEHIND IN THAT HOUSE ANYWAY ?
SHIT.
I ALREADY OWE THAT ASSHOLE ONE...
I NEED TO REPAY THE FAVOR SO IT DOESN'T KEEP PLAGUING ME.
BUWA (WHOOSH)
BAG: MOJI CEMENT
DOSU (OFF)


ZUZAZAZA (SWUSH)
AAAHHH!!
DOGA (CRUNCH)
HUH?
BAKI (CRAK)

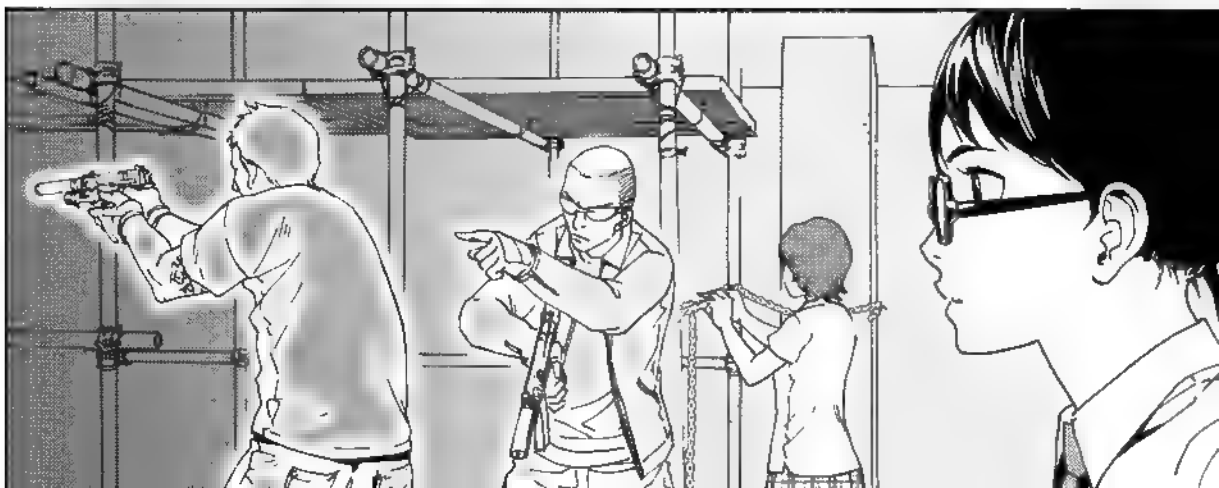
HOW DO THEY KEEP WAYLAYING US WITH THESE PERFECTLY-PLACED BOOBY-TRAPS!? DO THEY HAVE A PRO WITH THEM!?
LITTLE BAS-TARDS!


THIS WAY.




PULL THAT CHAIN ACROSS THERE.

PUT A BOARD ON THE RIGHT SIDE.
YES, THERE.



...UMM...
DA (STOMP)
DA
DA
DA
RUN!
THEY'RE HERE.

THE ENEMY WILL GET IMPATIENT AND STORM UP HERE ALL AT ONCE... WHAT NOW...?
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TRICKS TO BUY TIME...
!?
BIKU (FLINCH)
ビクッ
AAAAAGH!!
PASHU
PASHU
PASHU (PSHOO)
GA (TAK)
GA
GA
AHHH !!

PA (RATTA)
PA
PA
PA
BEHIND YOU! AHHH!!
PASHU
PASHU
PA
PA
PA
PA
HE'S GOING AROUND THE RIGHT!
PASHU
PASHU
AAAAGH!!
PASHU
PASHU
.....
SHIIIN (SILENCE)

DA (DASH)
DA
DA
DA
...!!
...NO! NO! NO! I'M SCARED ...!
HOLY SHIT... I DON'T WANNA DIE HERE!
THEY'RE SHOOTING... THEY'RE REALLY GOING TO KILL US...
SOME-THING...
HAVE TO DO SOME-THING...

Until
Death
do us
Part

HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
WH-WHERE'S TACHIBANA ...?
?
...SHE'S GONE...
.....

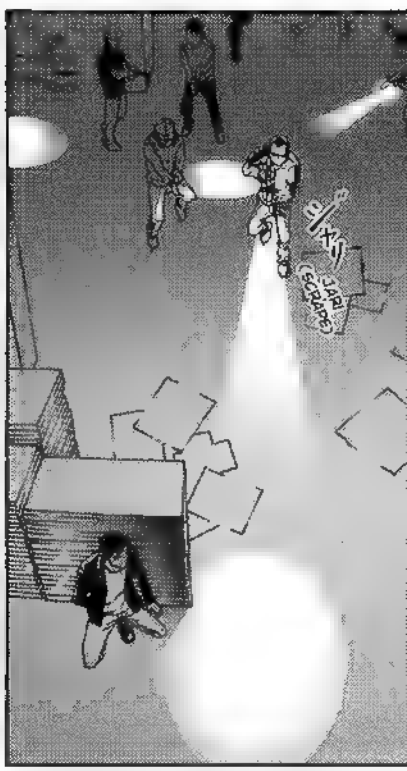
RRRH...
HNG-

chapter 59

THEY ALWAYS UNLOAD THEIR CLIPS IN SITUA-TIONS WHEN THEY'RE LIKELY TO SHOOT EACH OTHER!
THIS IS WHY I HATE THE GUYS WITH ONLY HALF THEIR TRAINING.
DAMN... STUPID AMATEURS!
RRGH!
HOW MANY OF 'EM ARE THERE!?
WHERE THE FUCK DID HE GO!?
THAT JUST BUYS ME MORE TIME TO WORK.
THAT'S RIGHT, START PANICK-ING...
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

!?
PA (FLASH)

ON THE OTHER HAND, I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF ROOM TO MANEUVER ...


SLAM
JARI (SCRAPE)

...
ギュッ
(SQUEEZE)
ガッヤン
PASHU
PSHU
!?
PASHU
PSHOO
SHU
SHU
SHU

THIS WAY!
HUH !?

THIS WAY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CAUGHT A GRAZE FROM A SLOW-ASS BULLET, NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
HE WENT UP!
UP!
WAS THAT YOU...?

YEAH. SORRY TO LET YOU DOWN.
I WASN'T IN A POSITION TO CALL FOR BACKUP.
ARE YOU ALONE?
DOGA
DOGA
DOGA
JARA
JARA (JANGLE)
?

WHOA!
GA (TRIP)
DADADA (CHARGE)
AAAAH!!
BE CARE-FUL, DAMMIT!
FUCK!!
I SEE NOW...

HFF
HFF
DON'T WORRY, KEEP GOING.
BUT...
DOES IT HURT?
I'M FINE!
ダ"
DA (STOMP)
ダ"
DA
ダ"
DA
HIDE WITH THE OTHER KIDS.
I'VE GOT ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO SLOW THEM DOWN HERE.

THEY'RE COMING!
GET GOING!
DA DA DA DA

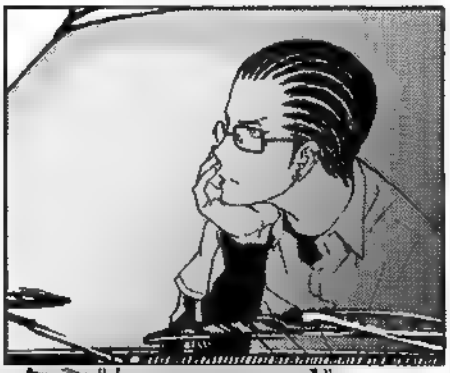
GYU (SQUEEZE)
!?
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY-ONE DIE BECAUSE OF ME!
I CAN'T!

THAT'S WHY SHE WANTED TO SAVE THE OTHER GIRL TOO...
SHE'S A GOOD KID...
!!
THERE HE IS!
MAMORU-SAN...

AAAGH!
!?
AAAAH!!
GYAAA!!
AAAH!
DOSA (THUD)
BSHU (SWISH)

MA-
MORU-
SAN!
RAHHH!!
PA-
(DRATTA)
PA
PA
PA
KILL
'IM!
PASHU
(PSHOO)
PASHU!
PASHU
UEEGH!
AAAH!
HELP,
HELP!!

...



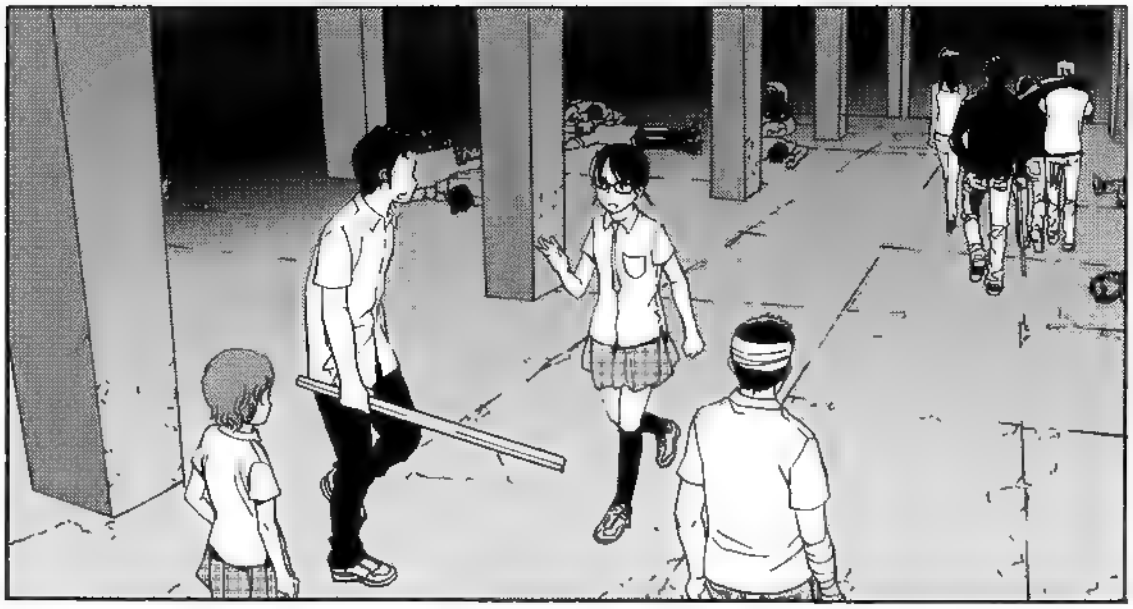
...I'D HEARD THE RUMORS... BUT THIS IS JUST BRUTAL.
WHEW!

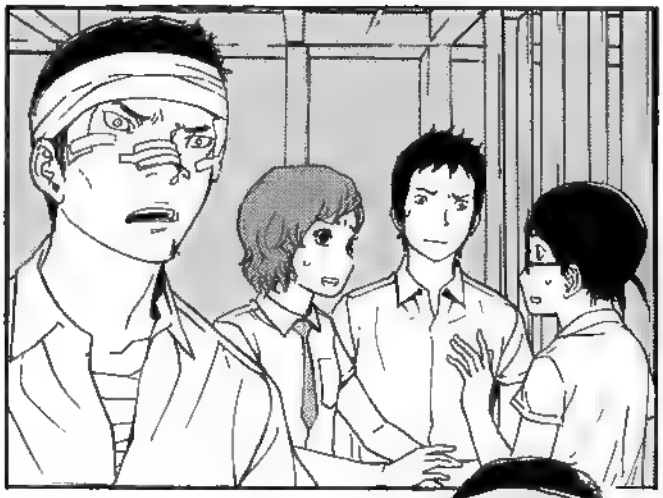
IT WAS A PAIN IN THE ASS FOR IGAWA TO NAIL DOWN YOUR EXACT LOCATION.
TOOK YOU GUYS LONG ENOUGH ...
YOU SHOULDN'T BE PANICK-ING.
...
GU (HUP)
PLUS, YOU'VE GOT THE MAN WHO AVOIDED OFFICER GENDA'S UNERRING BLADE ON YOUR SIDE.
MAMORU-SAN.

IF YOU EXPLAIN THE SITUATION FROM THE START, WE CAN WORK AS A TEAM.
DON'T RUN OFF ON YOUR OWN!
I'M SORRY ...
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS GOING TO BE SO SERIOUS...
!?
HEY, YOU SCUMBAGS !!

...
WHAT?
UM, WAIT...
...HUH...?
GET AWAY FROM HER!

BEFORE I GET PUNCHED OR SOMETHING.
GO BACK TO YOUR FRIENDS...





chapter 60

WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY MIGHT WAKE UP...
HEY! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.
HAHHH!
ドサッ
DOSA (FLUMP)
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
?
THAT'S WON'T BE AN ISSUE...
IF MAMORU-SAN KNOCKED THEM OUT, THEY WON'T COME TO FOR ANOTHER TWO OR THREE HOURS.
BECAUSE ...

UMM ...
WELL... NOT EXACTLY ...
ARE WE REALLY JUST GONNA RUN AWAY AND LEAVE THIS BEHIND?
I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU ...
H-HEY!
DA (HOP)
?

UM...THE OTHER DAY...
?
TA (TEK)
タタッ
TA
WHAT ...?
THAT OBNOXIOUS LITTLE SHITHEAD ...?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU SAVED MY LIFE... AT THE PACHINKO PARLOR...

I, UM, WANNA BE...
...MORE LIKE YOU...

UNTIL YOU ATONE FOR YOUR CRIMES, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CRIMINAL!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING! WHY ARE YOU HANGING AROUND A PLACE LIKE THIS!?
HUH?

NOW DON'T TALK TO ME UNLESS YOU WANT TO GET CUT IN TWO!
タ (TEK)
タ
タッ
...

BYE.
...
SO, I HAVE TO START BY MAKING THINGS RIGHT ON MY OWN, HUH? ALL RIGHT, THEN.
TCH...
TA (TEK)
TA
TON (TAP)
TON

?
HUH?
I'M GOING TO THE COPS.
...
I'M GONNA TELL THEM EVERYTHING I'VE DONE AND TAKE A LOAD OFF MY SHOULDERS.

BUOOO (VRRM)
NICE WORK, CAP'N...
THE CAPTAIN MADE ARRANGE-MENTS JUST IN TIME. WE GOT 'EM ALL.
ANY NEWS ON DAMAGES TO THAT YAKUZA CHIEF MATOBA'S FAMILY?
BUOOO

SO... ERR...
HOW TO PATCH UP THIS AWKWARD SITUATION ...?
...

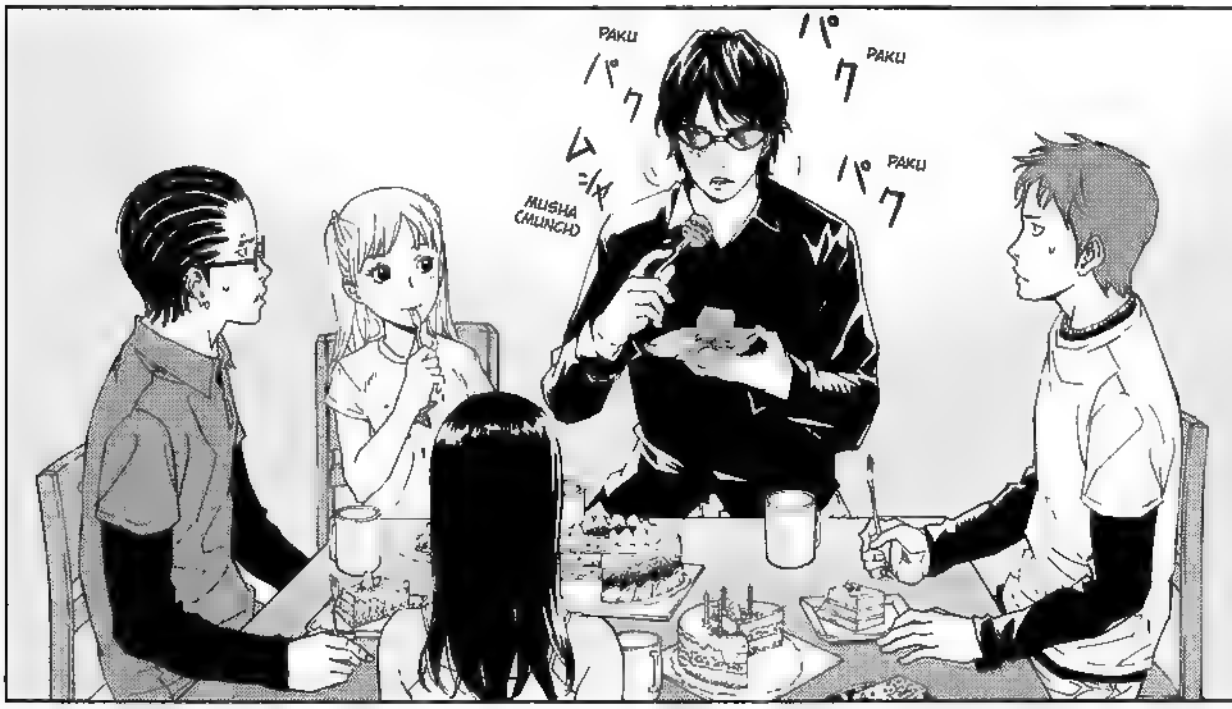
...BUT AT LEAST NO ONE WAS HURT, RIGHT?
HEY... ...I KNOW WE NEEDED KILO'S HELP IN THE END...

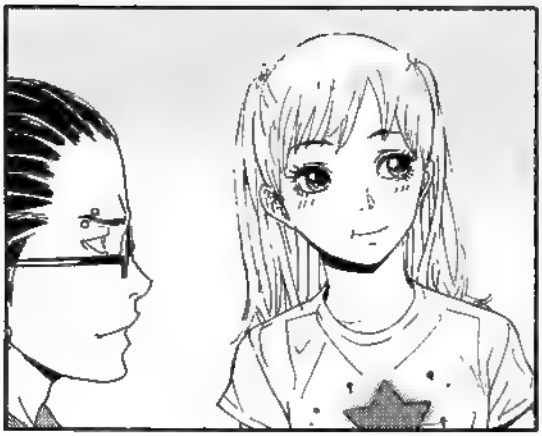
.....
THIS TEAM IS SUCH A CAST OF CHARAC-TERS...
.....

I BOUGHT YOU A BIRTHDAY CAKE. SIERRA TOLD ME TO.
I KNOW IT'S A HALF-MONTH LATE. THINGS HAVE BEEN CRAZY.
YOU CAN HAVE SOME WHEN WE GET BACK.
...HUH!?

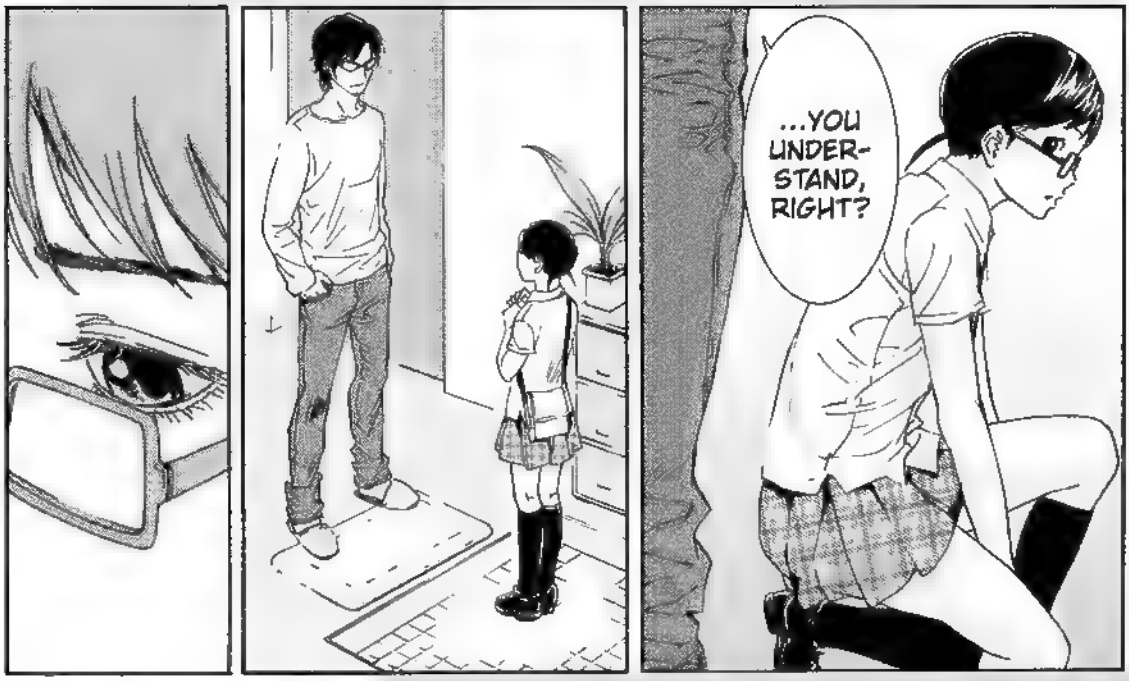
IF YOU WANT TO THANK ANY-ONE, THANK SIERRA.
ブオオオ
BUOOO (VRRM)
...I WILL...

PAKU (CHOMP)
パク
PAKU
パク


PAKU
パク
パク
PAKU
パク
PAKU
MUSHA (MUNCH)



...HE RE-ALLY DOES LIKE HIS SWEETS ...


...YOU UNDER-STAND, RIGHT?

GACHA (CLICK)
I'M OFF TO SCHOOL!

... YES ...

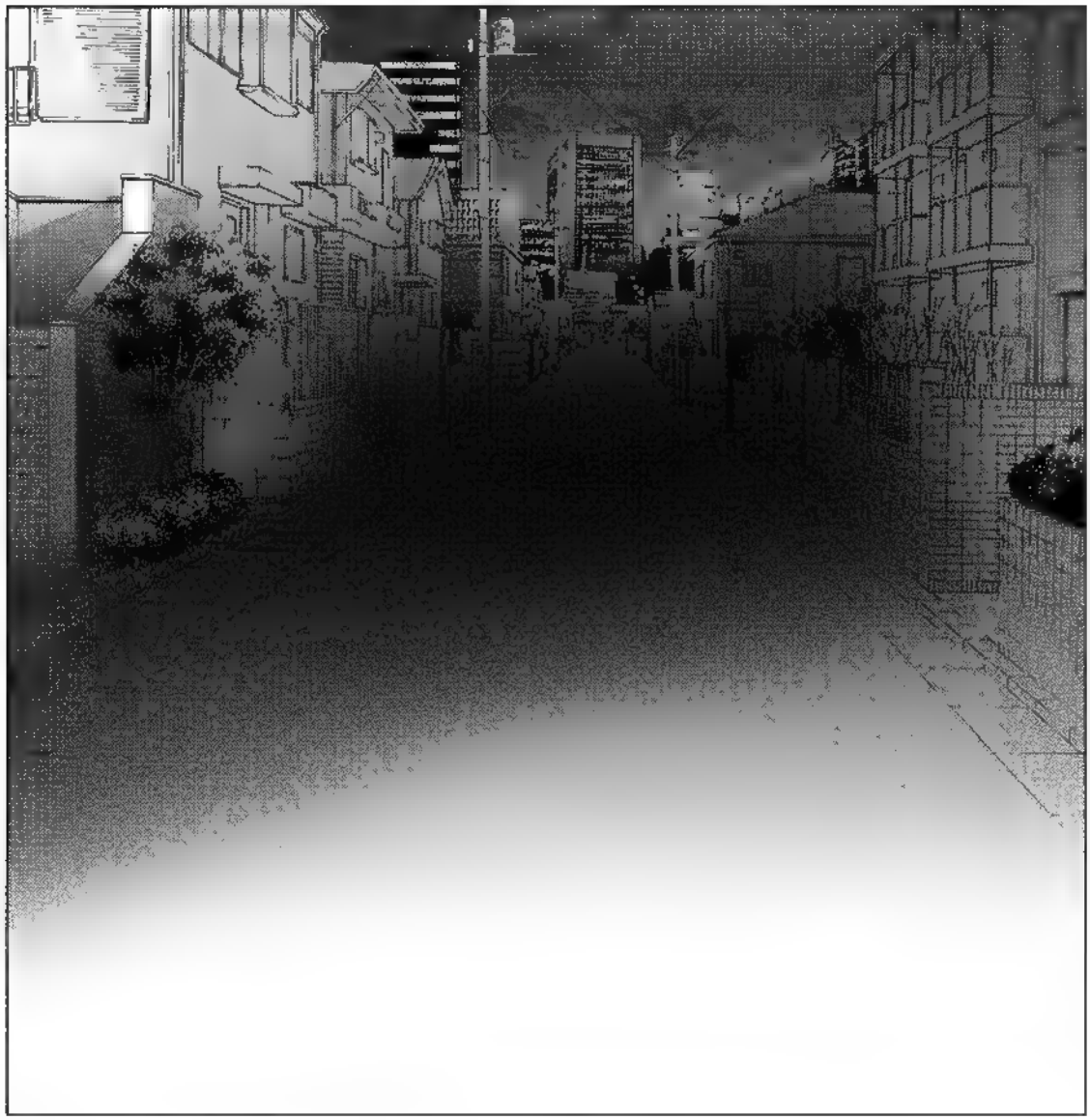
DON'T ASK ANYTHING.
PRETEND EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TONIGHT WAS RESOLVED WITHOUT YOU SEEING WHAT HAPPENED.
ALL RIGHT...
AND PLEASE, DON'T TELL ANYONE THAT I WAS HERE!
I KNOW THIS WAS REALLY CRAZY...BUT I NEED YOU TO COME TO SCHOOL TOMORROW LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.
WE AGREED TO PLAY ALONG BECAUSE SHE WAS SO INSISTENT... BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

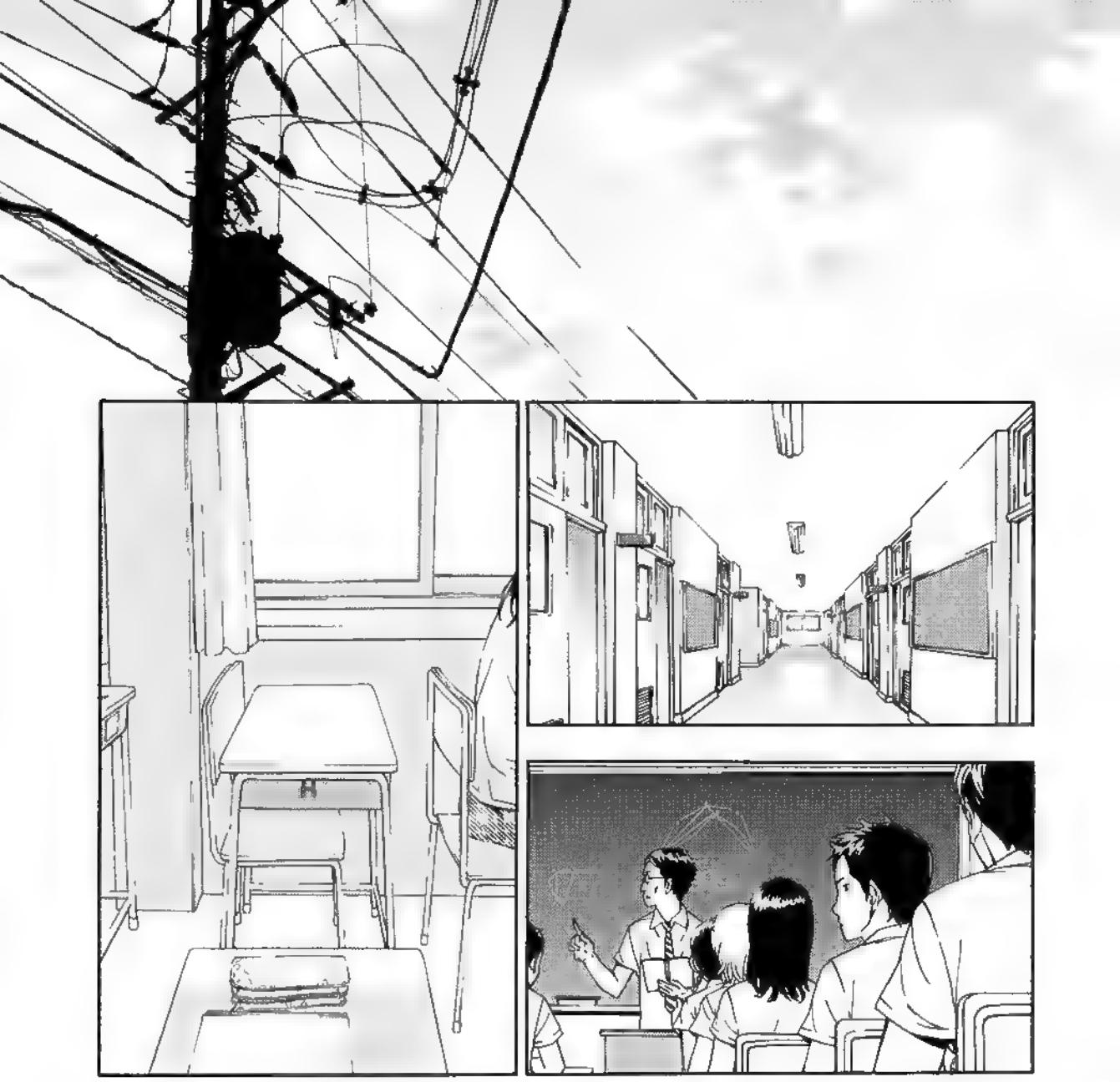
WELL, THIS IS MY STOP.
HUH ?

THE GUY FROM YESTER-DAY!?
HE'S A LITTLE SCARY, BUT KINDA HOT TOO.
YOU SHOULD INTRO-DUCE ME.
IS HE PICKING YOU UP?
コク KOKU (NOD)
NO!

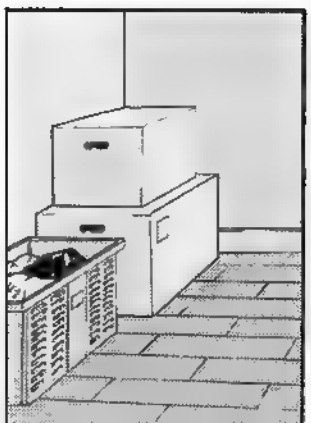
HEH.
HMPH ...
WELL, SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
HUH?
UH, HEY!
WELL ...
BYE.
YEAH ...

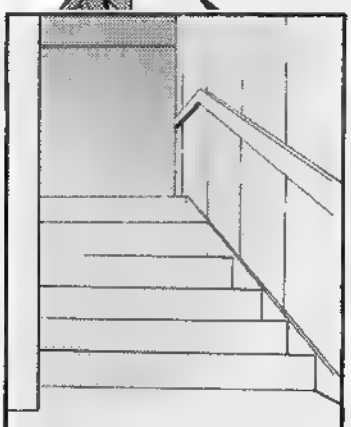
…

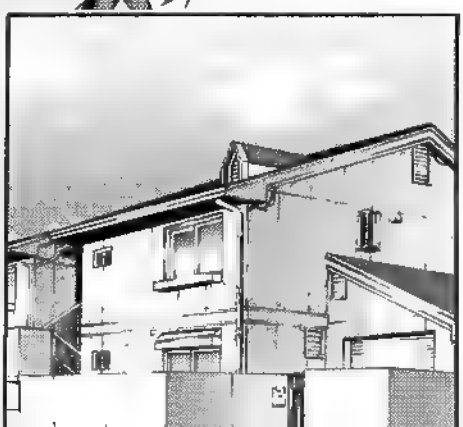




...THE NEXT DAY... SHE DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL...







IN FACT, I NEVER SAW HER AGAIN AFTER THAT.

Until
Death
do us
Part

TOKYO
DON
DON (BLAM)
MOVE IT!
OUTTA THE WAY!
!?

DON (BLAM)
DON
AAAH!
AAAH!
YAAAH!

BUBA (SURCH)
AAGH!
EEK!
DON

TA (BRATTA)
TA
TA

ZA (SKFF)

ドドドドドッ
AAH!
KYAAA!
...
KUI (CHOP)

chapter 61

KON (KNOCK)
KON
GACHA (CLICK)
UIIIN (VWEE)
PROFESSOR ...
NO, STAY SEATED.
UIIIN
MR. WISEMAN'S BEEN HOLED UP IN HIS COMPUTER ROOM.
HE MUST BE ENJOYING HIS LOOK AT THE DATA.
I DOUBT WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN UNTIL HE'S DRAWN HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS.

...
AND I DON'T BLAME HIM.
HE SEEMS LESS INTERESTED IN OUR SAMURAI...
...THAN HE IS IN THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION LURKING BEHIND HIM.
HE'LL BE CONCERNED WITH THE MORE POWERFUL OPPONENT.
AGAINST JUST ONE MAN, WISEMAN HAS NO DOUBT CONCLUDED THAT HE CAN MANAGE JUST FINE.
SO FAR, SO GOOD, IF THE REPORTS ARE TO BE BELIEVED.
SPEAKING OF PLANS, HOW IS YOURS COMING ALONG?

YES, IMPEDI-MENTS.
THE PLAN ITSELF HASN'T BEEN AFFECTED IN ANY WAY, BUT WE DID FAIL TO ELIMINATE MATOBA'S FAMILY.
WISEMAN GAVE HIS STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE PLAN ITSELF...
...SO BARRING ANY IMPEDI-MENTS, IT SHOULD BE A SUCCESS.
IMPEDI-MENTS, YOU SAY...?
SO YOU'RE GOING TO HIRE SOME OF THOSE MERCENARIES WE LURED HERE WITH MY BOUNTY MONEY AND HIT THE TARGET?
MEANING YOU'RE JUST USING ME AND MR. WISEMAN TO GET RID OF YOUR "IMPEDIMENT."
...HIM...
HEY, WE'RE ALL USING EACH OTHER, AREN'T WE?

...
...
TRUE ENOUGH... NOT A PROBLEM.
MR. WISE-MAN...
IS THE PLAN GOING WELL?

TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SYNDICATES SHOULD BE REACHING A PEAK.
BUT YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO SPEAK ON THAT MATTER.
YES. WE DID SUFFER A SETBACK IN ONE AREA...
...BUT ON THE WHOLE, THINGS ARE PROCEEDING AS PLANNED.
!?
I'VE ANALYZED THE DATA FROM "THE BEAST," AND I'VE ISOLATED A FEW VERY FASCINATING TIDBITS.
TRUE.

I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THIS PART...
NO, YOU'VE GOT IT RIGHT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
GREAT!

HYUN
(SWISH)
...HE NEVER GIVES IT A REST ...
...

WE'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER PLACE TO LIVE...
... HEY ...
WHAT ...?

IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.
A FORMER HUSBAND AND WIFE IN THE SAME HOSPITAL FOR THE SAME THING?

WASN'T SHE?

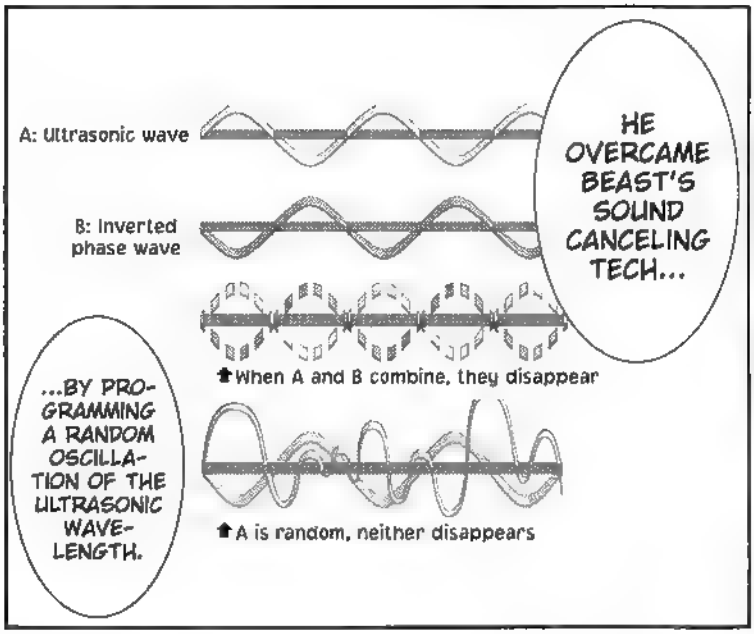
SHE WAS A SWEET GIRL...
CUTE KID.

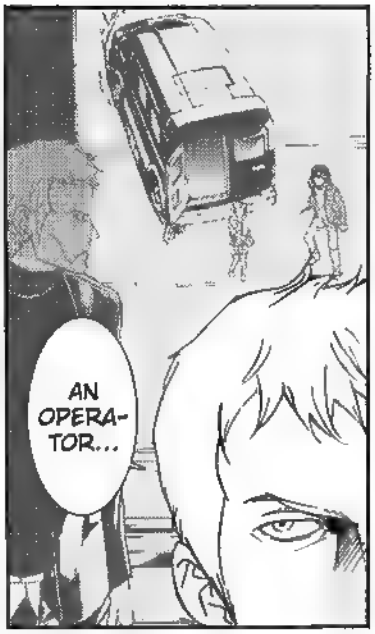
NO, IT DOESN'T ...

AS CUTE AS OURS WOULD HAVE BEEN?
...
...THAT SAMURAI IS SEEING HIS ENEMIES USING THE ECHOES FROM ULTRA-SONIC WAVES.
THE BIG SURPRISE IS...
OCHA
茶

YES, EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING... LIKE A BAT.
HUH?
ULTRA-SONIC WAVES ...?
IT PROVED EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR HIM.
THAT'S WHY HE COULDN'T SEE THE BEAST DUE TO ITS SOUND CANCELER.
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, HOW DID HE MANAGE TO OVERCOME IT?
...
OKAY, BUT...

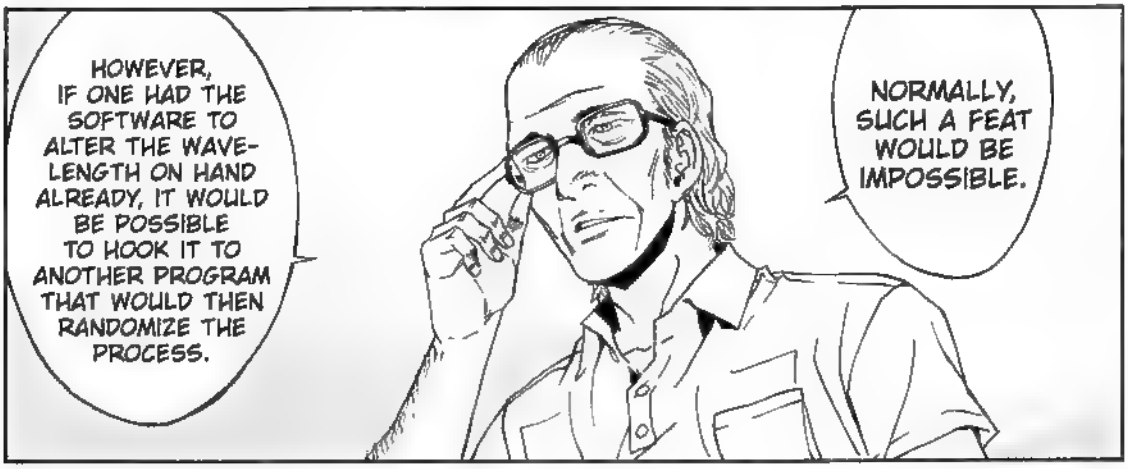
A MASTER OF COMBAT DOESN'T USE ONLY HIS EYES TO SENSE THE ENEMY.
ALL FIVE OF HIS SENSES ARE SHARPENED TO A POINT SUCH THAT HE ABSORBS INFORMATION FROM ALL SOURCES BEFORE HE ACTS.
...
INDEED. IT MEANS THE OPERATOR WORKING WITH HIM IS ALSO AN EXCEEDINGLY GOOD PROGRAMMER.
WE'VE KNOWN THAT HE WAS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT FROM THE VERY START.
BUT I DON'T THINK WE CAN SIMPLY CHALK THIS UP TO IMMENSE TALENT.


A: Ultrasonic wave
B: Inverted phase wave
When A and B combine, they disappear
A is random, neither disappears
HE OVERCAME BEAST'S SOUND CANCELING TECH...
...BY PROGRAMMING A RANDOM OSCILLATION OF THE ULTRASONIC WAVELENGTH.

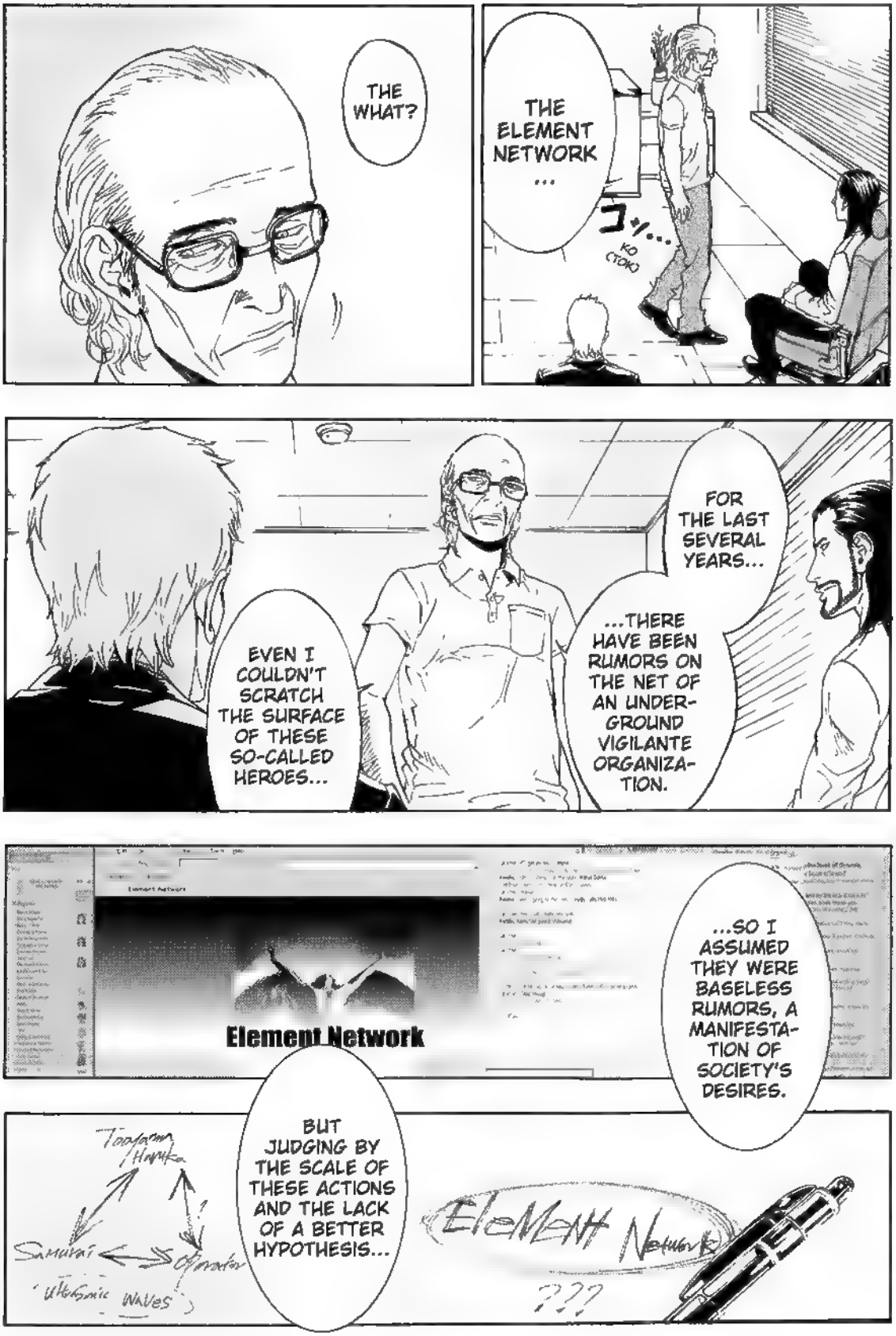

AN OPERATOR...

IN A MATTER OF MERE HOURS?

AND THAT PROVED A VICTORIOUS STRATEGY.


HOWEVER, IF ONE HAD THE SOFTWARE TO ALTER THE WAVELENGTH ON HAND ALREADY, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HOOK IT TO ANOTHER PROGRAM THAT WOULD THEN RANDOMIZE THE PROCESS.
NORMALLY, SUCH A FEAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

AND THEN, OF COURSE, THERE'S THE PROPHETIC GIRL.
HER TALENTS MUST HAVE PLAYED A PART IN OVER-COMING OUR BEASTS.
COINCI-DENCE, POSSI-BLY...
EVEN AS HE PROTECTS HER LIFE, SHE RETURNS THE FAVOR BACK TO HER BODY-GUARD.
HOW CAN AN ORGANIZATION LIKE THEIRS BE SO HEAVILY INVOLVED HERE, AND YET WE'VE NEVER PICKED UP ANY INTEL ON THEM AT ALL?
BUT HOW ...?
UGH ...
...BUT IT SEEMS TO SUGGEST THAT THEY HAVE A VERY TIGHT-KNIT TEAM, EACH PART COVER-ING FOR THE OTHER.

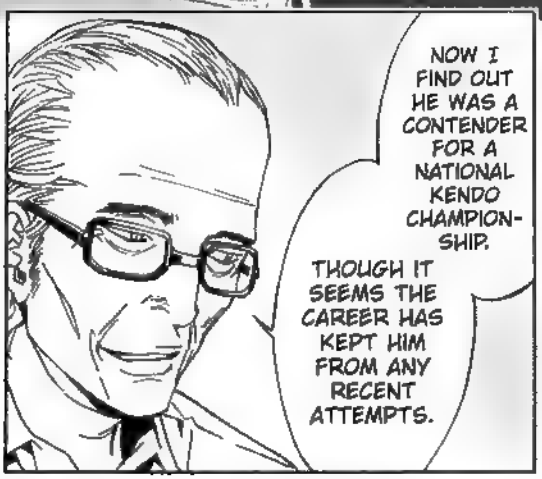

THE WHAT?
THE ELEMENT NETWORK ...
コソ... (KO (TOK))
FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS...
...THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS ON THE NET OF AN UNDER-GROUND VIGILANTE ORGANIZA-TION.
EVEN I COULDN'T SCRATCH THE SURFACE OF THESE SO-CALLED HEROES...
Element Network
...SO I ASSUMED THEY WERE BASELESS RUMORS, A MANIFESTA-TION OF SOCIETY'S DESIRES.
BUT JUDGING BY THE SCALE OF THESE ACTIONS AND THE LACK OF A BETTER HYPOTHESIS...
Samurai
Ultrasonic Waves
Element Network
???

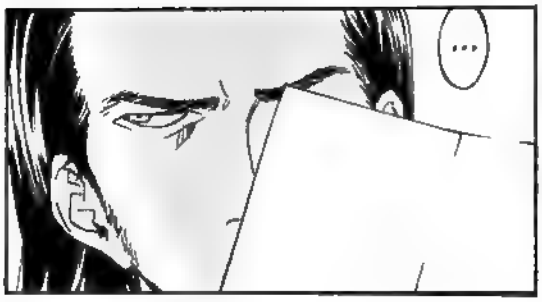
...I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT THEIR OPERATION IS VERY LARGE AND SOPHISTICATED, INDEED.
HEH HEH HEH!
A SECRET SOCIETY THAT THINKS IT CAN PULL THE WOOL OVER MY EYES? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

I AM WRACKED BY THE COMPULSION TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS GROUP.
MR. WISEMAN...
NO, I'M AFRAID I'M BUSY WITH A DIFFERENT PROJECT RIGHT NOW.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR DESIRE FOR REVENGE, BUT NOW IS THE TIME FOR PATIENCE.
WISEMAN...
...I THINK IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED HERE.
...I WANT TO CORNER HIM BEFORE THEY'RE FULLY ENGAGED IN THIS SITUATION.
BUT WITH A GROUP THAT LARGE WAITING IN THE WINGS...

...
I WANT HIM... WHATEVER IT TAKES ...
WHY DON'T WE USE HIM, THEN?
!?
PASA (FLAP)

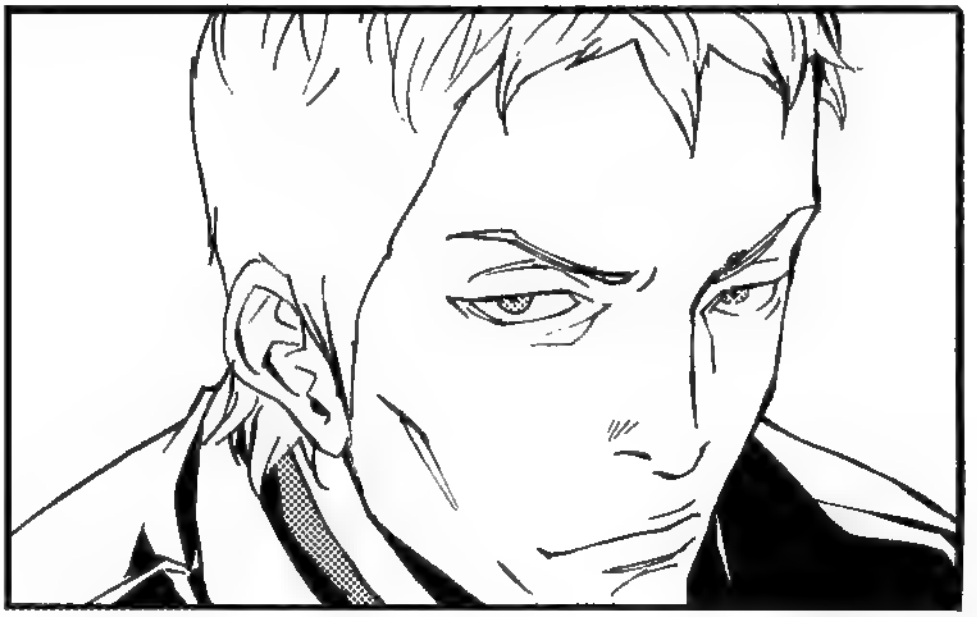
GENDA !?


NOW I FIND OUT HE WAS A CONTENDER FOR A NATIONAL KENDO CHAMPION-SHIP.
THOUGH IT SEEMS THE CAREER HAS KEPT HIM FROM ANY RECENT ATTEMPTS.


...

YES. TEPPEI GENDA, POLICE DETECTIVE.
REPORTS SAY HE WENT TOE-TO-TOE, BLADE-TO-BLADE WITH THE SAMURAI IN SHINJUKU GYOEN.

I'LL COME UP WITH THE MAN-POWER. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HE'S ALSO APPARENTLY GOT A MIND LIKE A WHIP.
WOULDN'T IT BE FUN TO WATCH THE SAMURAI AND THE COPS GRIND EACH OTHER DOWN?
...
I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU.
THE MATCHUP MIGHT BE WORTH A WATCH, I SUPPOSE ...
TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE...



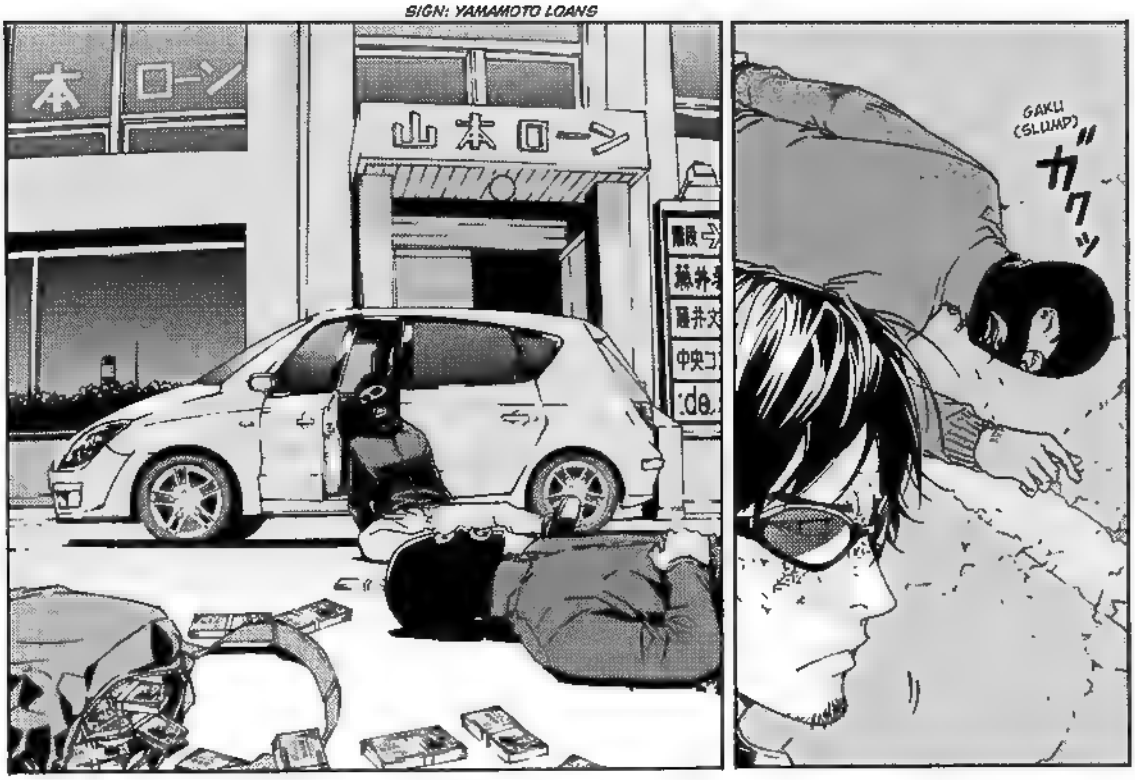
Until
Death
do us
Part

DOSHAA (DSHH)
GACHA (CLACK)
AAAGH!!
WH-WHO THE HE..L
...ARE YOU ...?

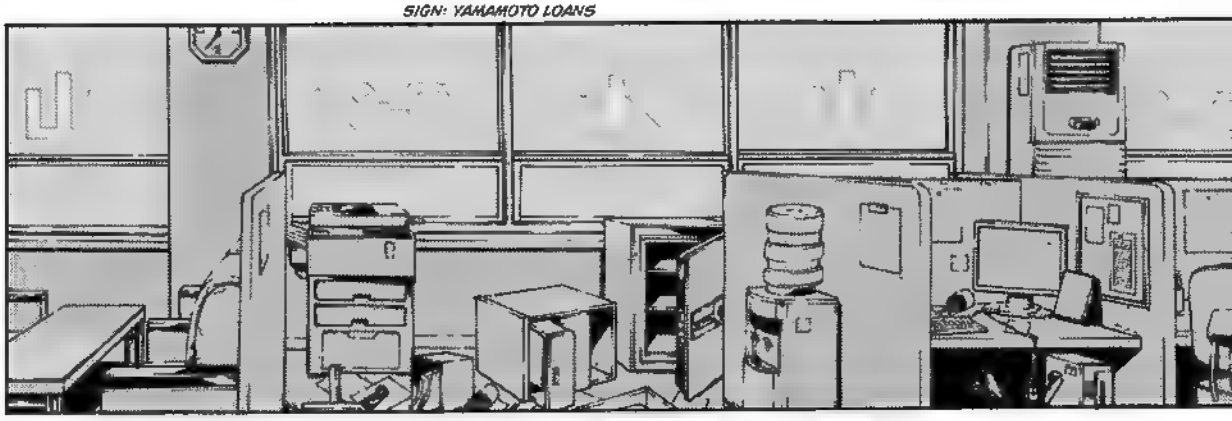
chapter 03

chapter 62

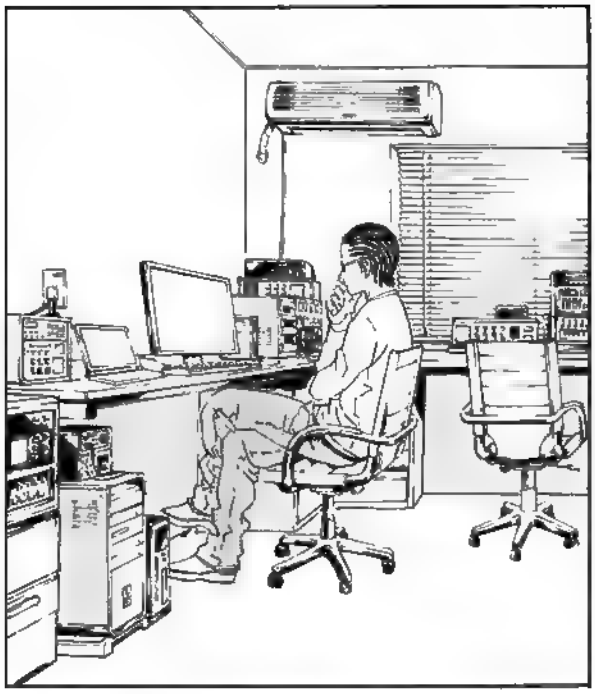
SIGN: YAMAMOTO LOANS

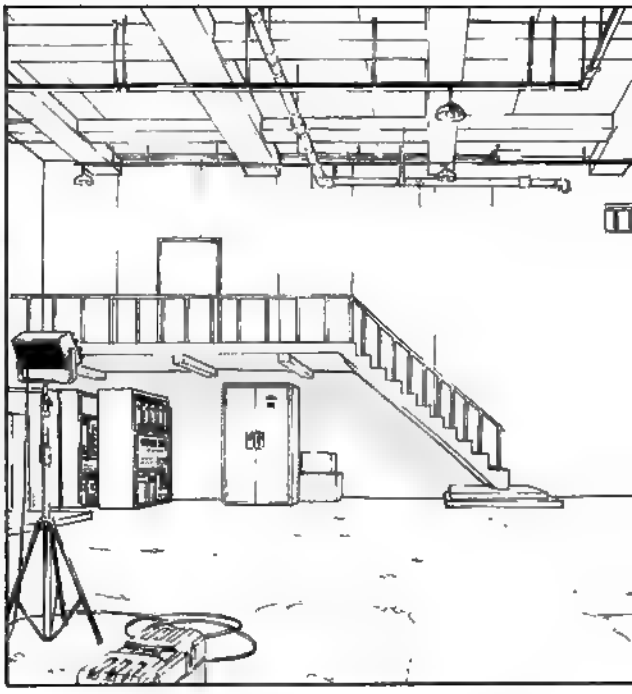


SIGN: YAMAMOTO LOANS



GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャッ
WELCOME BACK.
ファン
FUAN
ファン
FUAN
ファン
DOSA (THUMP)
ドサッ
...
LET'S RETURN TO BASE.





...the brain sends a signal to react even before the event occurs.
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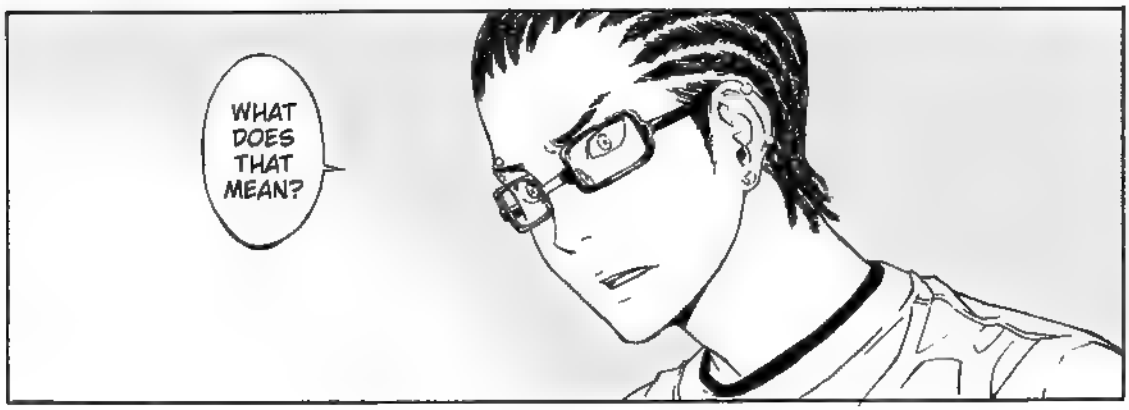
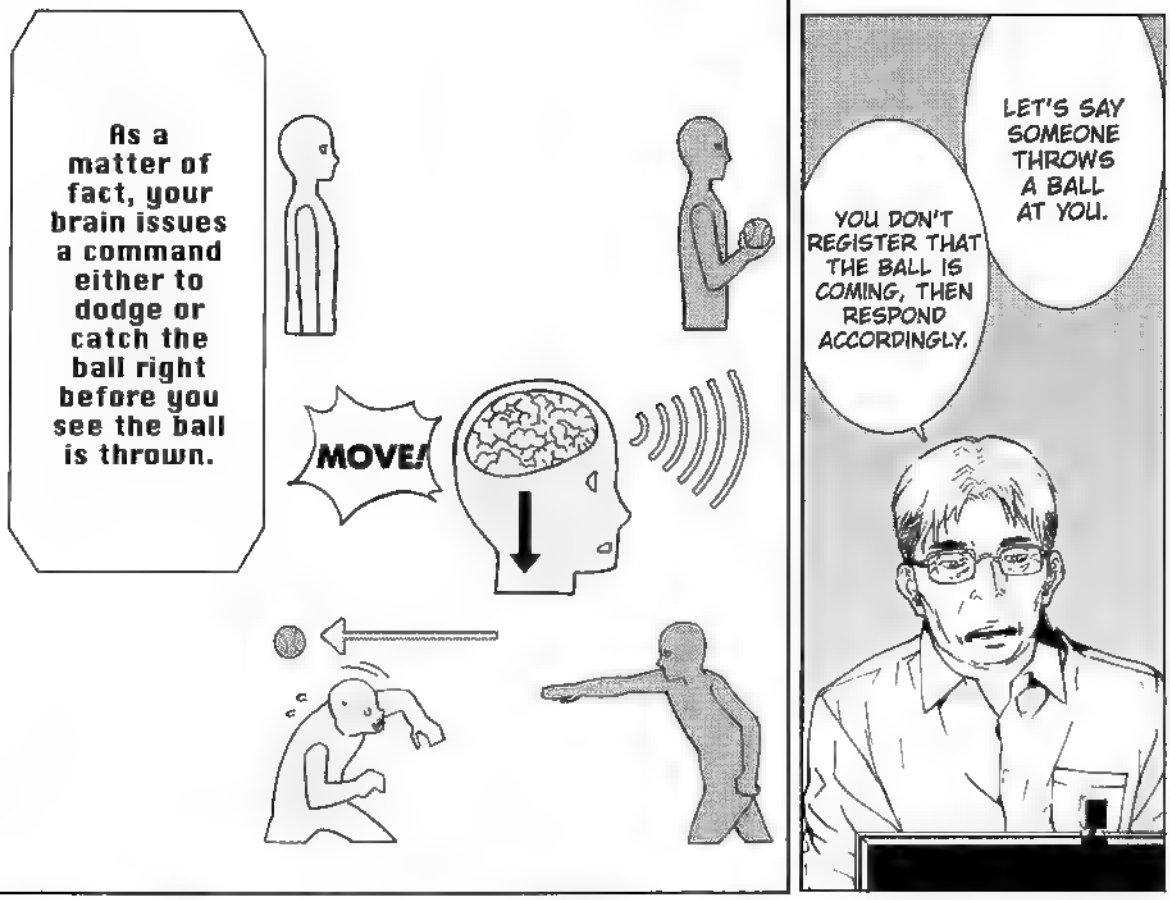
So this experi-ment has shown us that before humans choose how to respond to an event...


WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?


As a matter of fact, your brain issues a command either to dodge or catch the ball right before you see the ball is thrown.
MOVE!
LET'S SAY SOMEONE THROWS A BALL AT YOU.
YOU DON'T REGISTER THAT THE BALL IS COMING, THEN RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.

DOES THAT MEAN ALL HUMANS HAVE SOME KIND OF FORESIGHT LIKE HARUKA'S?
online
IT'S SUCH AN INSTANTANEOUS THING THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PROCESSES IS ALMOST UNDETECTABLE, BUT IT'S THERE.

...BUT IN HER CASE, SHE PICKS UP ON THESE EARLY SIGNALS SO FAR IN ADVANCE THAT SHE CAN CONSCIOUSLY PROCESS THEM, WHICH CREATES A MENTAL FEEDBACK LOOP.
OF COURSE, HUMANS MIGHT EXHIBIT THESE REACTIONS UNCONSCIOUSLY ...
YOU COULD SEE IT THAT WAY, SURE.
...
OF COURSE, YOU COULD ALSO THEORIZE THAT THIS ADVANCE DETECTION IS SIMPLY THE RESULT OF THE OVERALL MENTAL PROCESSING OF SUBTLE SIGNALS FROM ALL THE SENSES COMBINED ...
...AND IF THAT'S CORRECT, IT WOULD MAKE HER CONDITION POSSIBLE.
ROGER PENROSE THEORIZED THAT THE HUMAN MIND OCCUPIES A QUANTUM STATE...

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Tokyo
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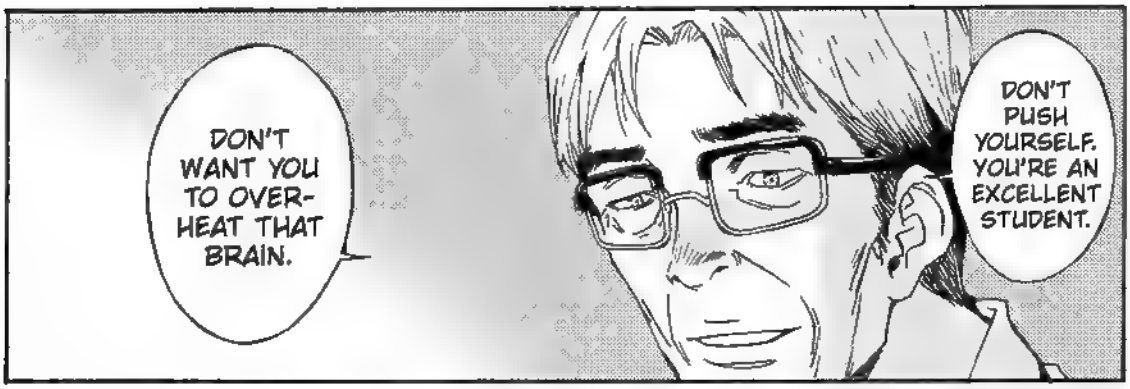
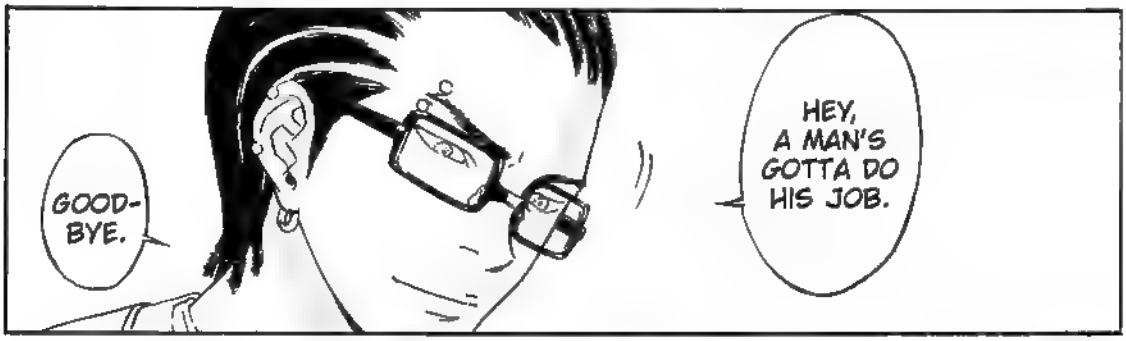
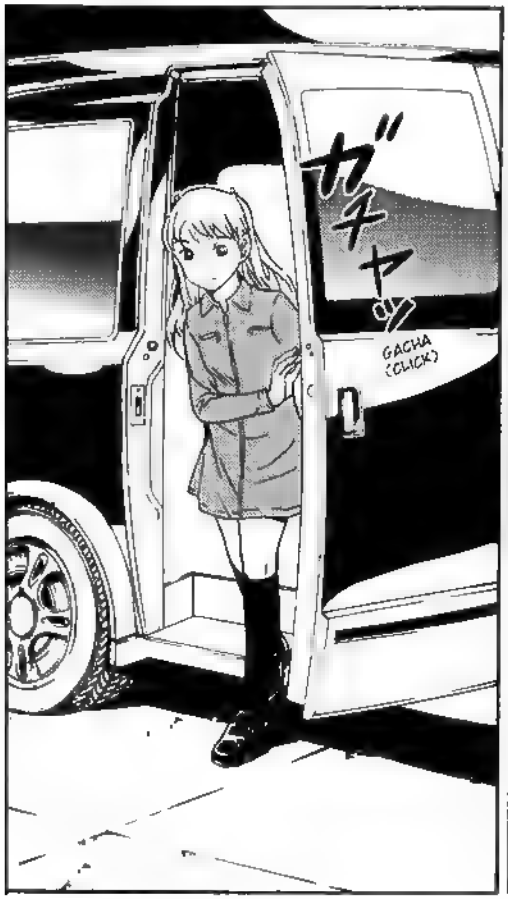
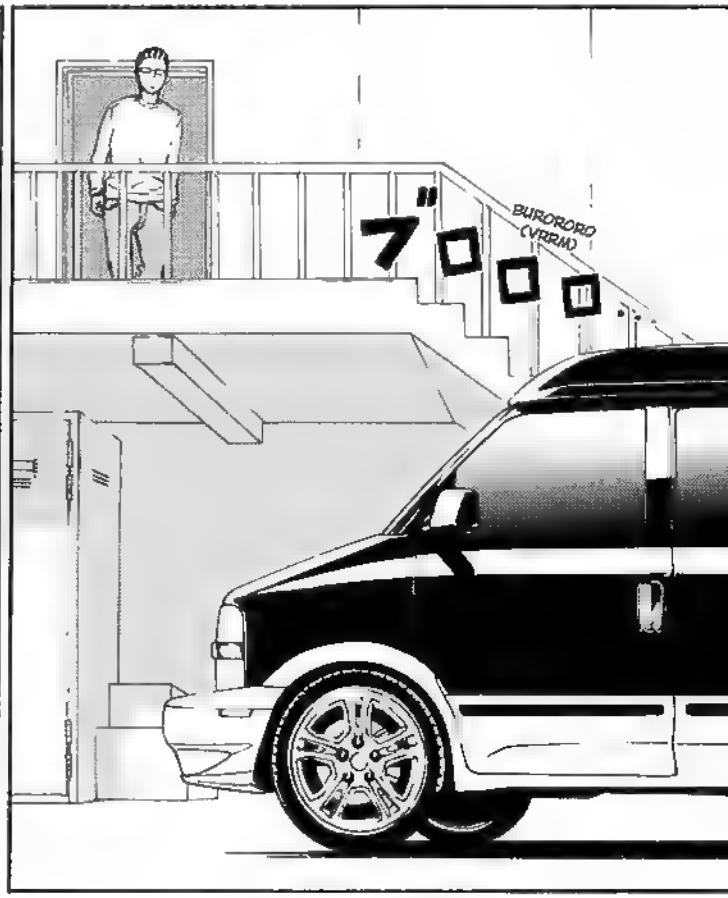
...That's right...
SO BASICALLY WE CAN'T SAY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER?
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY. THE GROUP'S JUST COMING HOME.
PI! (BEEP)
HMM ?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL MAKE MY SCHEDULE FIT YOURS.
I won't be available again until, let's see... the Tuesday after next.


DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. YOU'RE AN EXCELLENT STUDENT.
DON'T WANT YOU TO OVER-HEAT THAT BRAIN.


HEY, A MAN'S GOTTA DO HIS JOB.
GOOD-BYE.


ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)


ブロロロ
BURORORO (VRRM)

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK!
WEL-COME HOME.
GACHA
TA (TEK) TA
タタッ
I'LL GET STARTED ON DINNER.
I GUESS SHE MUST BE OVER-JOYED JUST TO HAVE A PLACE TO COME HOME TO, EH?

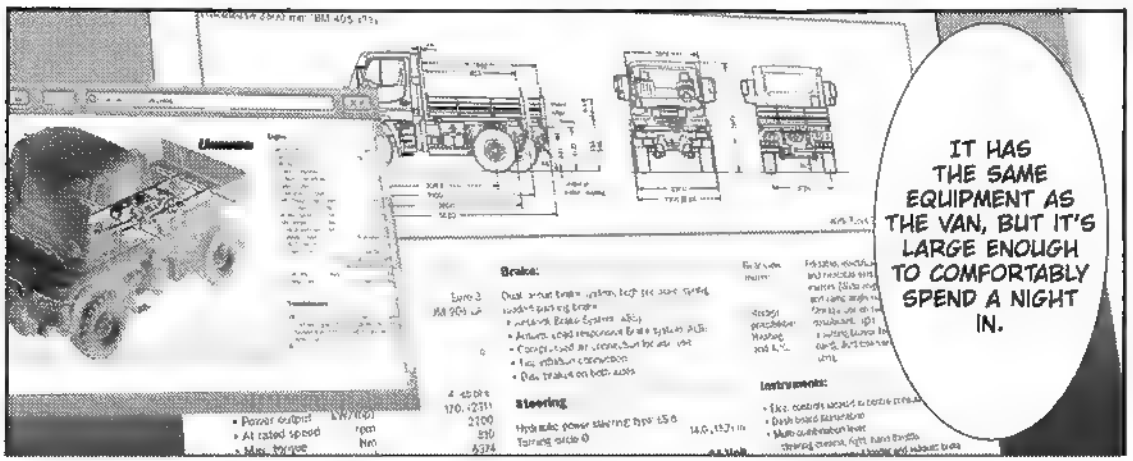
HUH? WHY!?
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT...
SEEMS MORE LIKE SHE'S FORCING HERSELF TO BE CHEERY.
ドサ
DOSA (THWUMP)
WHOA!
AHH... GOOD POINT.
LEAVING HER SCHOOL MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE AN EMOTIONAL BLOW.

THE GUY IS PAYING ATTENTION AFTER ALL...
Element Network Integrated Logistics Support System
SEARCH
PIII (BEEP)
ORDER LIST
Weapon
SMG
SAW
Sedan
Van
4WD SUV
Truck
Equipment
team BLADE
New message 3/5
New message 5/20
tooyama . H
New message 1/5
PERFECT, I WAS DOWN TO JUST ONE SPARE.
SAYS WE GOT THREE BLADE WHET-STONES.

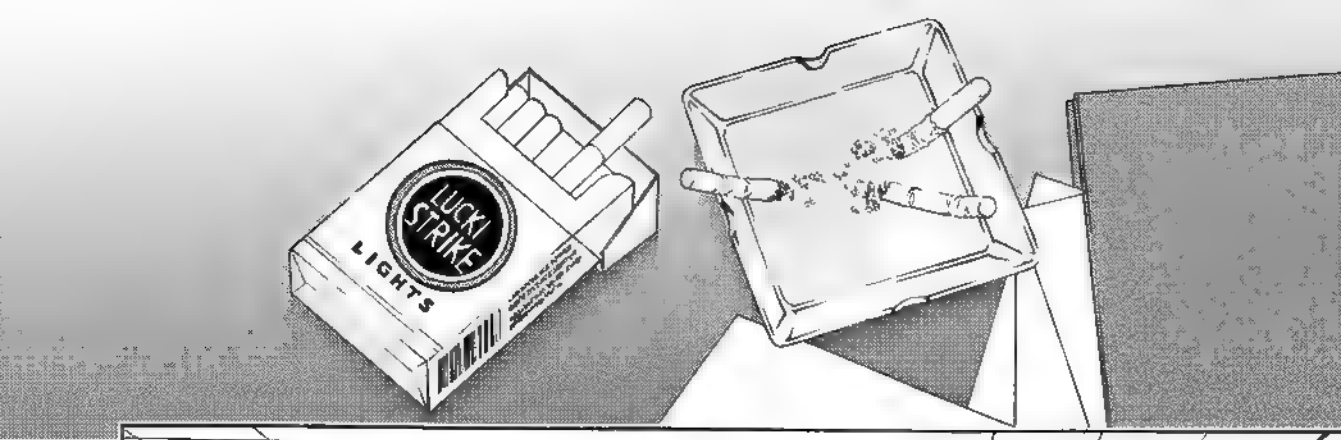
TEAM Tokyo
agent Blade
TEAM Wall
Element Network
vehicle>UNIMOG
THE ALTERED UNIMOG I WAS WAITING FOR IS READY FOR PICKUP!
AHA!
Transmissions

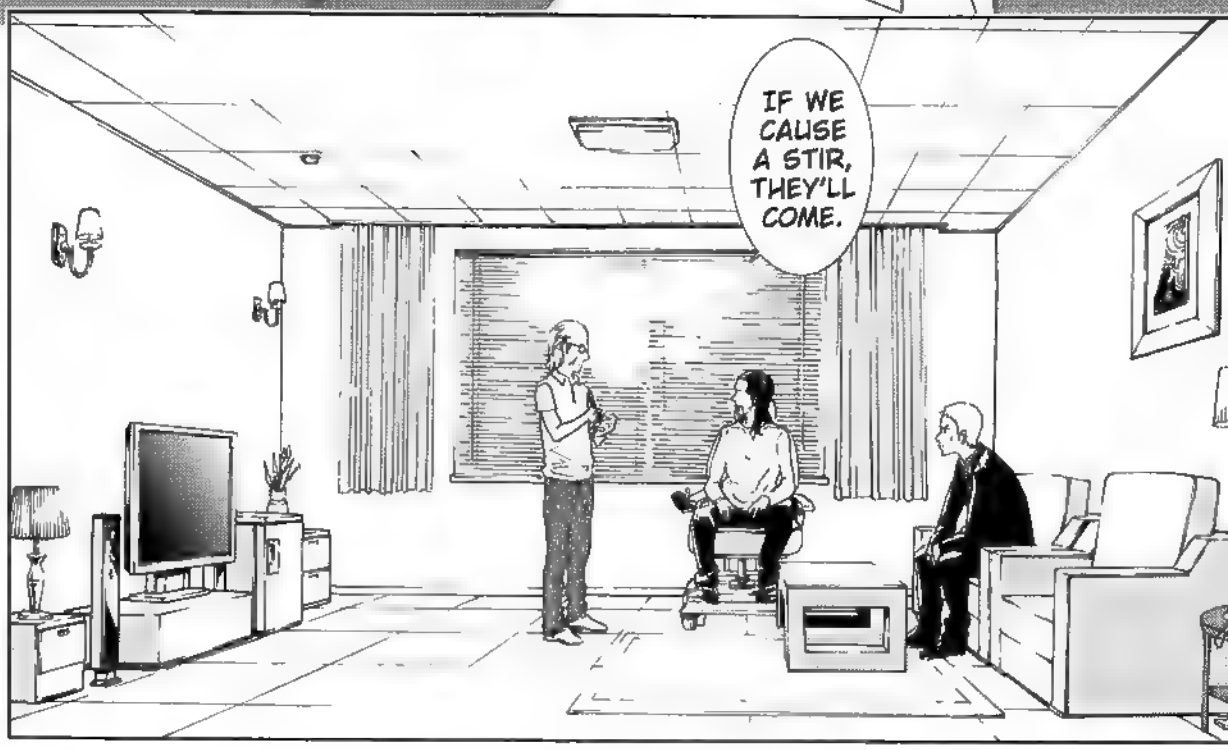
I'M GONNA GET MY STUFF TO GO PICK IT UP.
NOT A PROBLEM. AT A GLANCE, IT'LL LOOK LIKE ANY OTHER TRUCK.

A LITTLE CONSPIC-UOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?

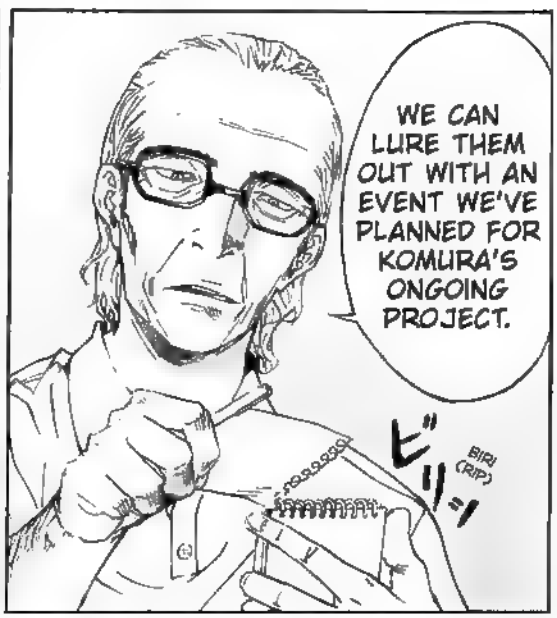

Brakes:
Steering
Instruments:
IT HAS THE SAME EQUIPMENT AS THE VAN, BUT IT'S LARGE ENOUGH TO COMFORTABLY SPEND A NIGHT IN.

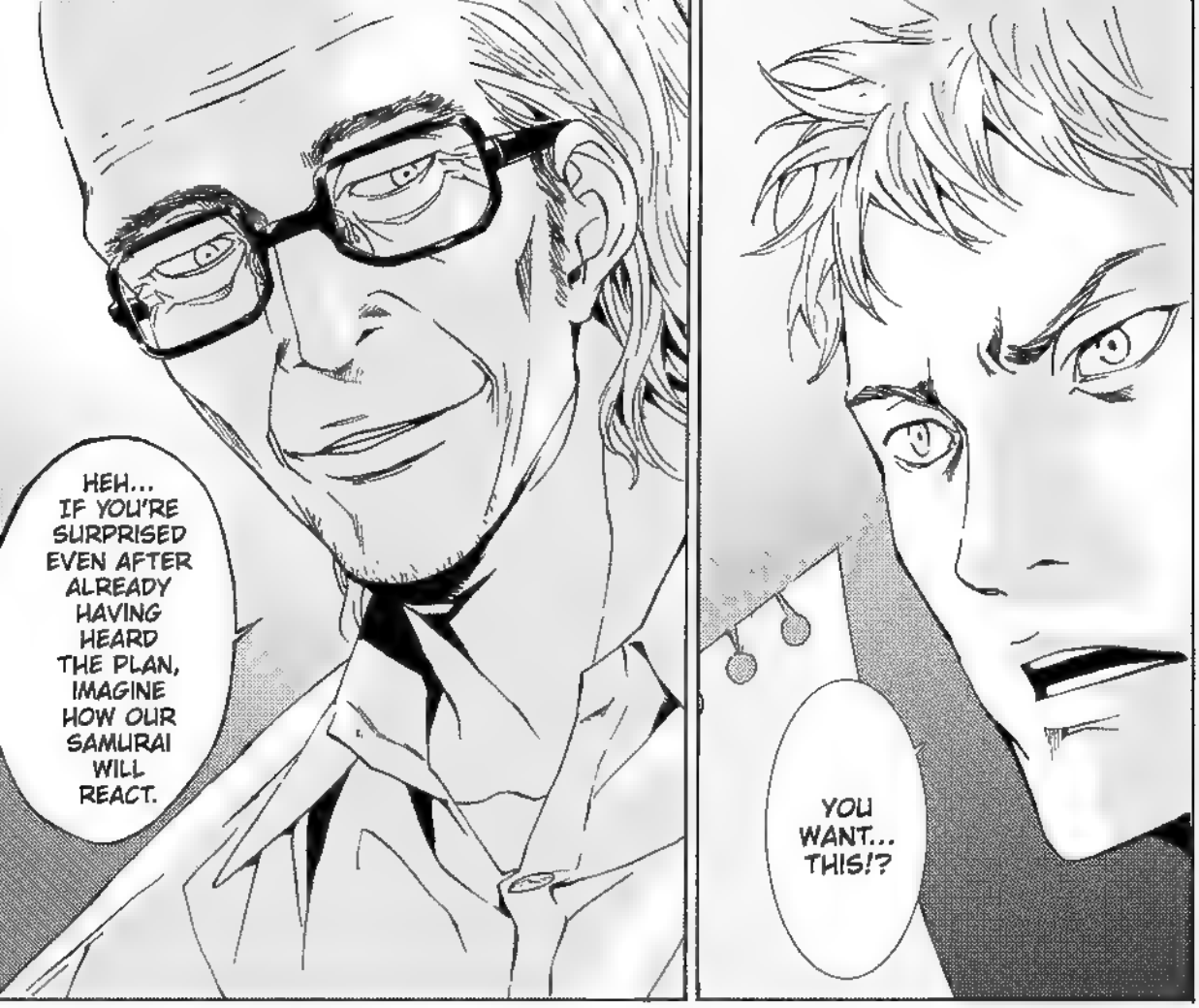
THE BEST PART OF THIS JOB IS ALL THE SWEET HARDWARE I'D NEVER GET MY HANDS ON OTHERWISE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHOULD I ADD ON ANOTHER BIKE OR THREE?
KATA (TAP)
KATA
WE LOW ON ANY HOUSE-HOLD GOODS?
I COULD GET HARUKA A GAME CONSOLE OR SOME-THING.


LUCKY STRIKE
LIGHTS

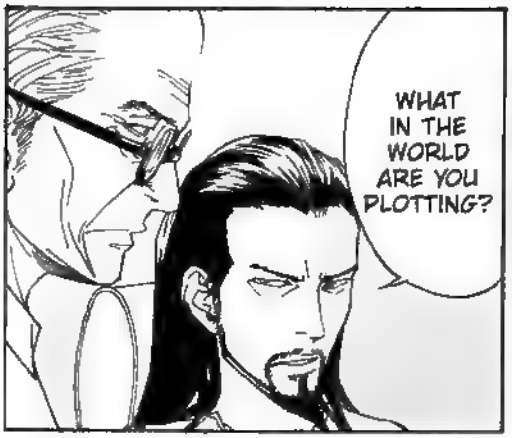

IF WE CAUSE A STIR, THEY'LL COME.

I'LL NEED YOU TO PROCURE THE FOL-LOWING.
?


WE CAN LURE THEM OUT WITH AN EVENT WE'VE PLANNED FOR KOMURA'S ONGOING PROJECT.
BIRI (RIP)


HEH... IF YOU'RE SURPRISED EVEN AFTER ALREADY HAVING HEARD THE PLAN, IMAGINE HOW OUR SAMURAI WILL REACT.
YOU WANT... THIS!?

...
GACHA (CLICK)


WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU PLOTTING?

I'LL GET IT PREPARED AT ONCE.
...RIGHT.

I'VE GOT A NUMBER OF IRONS IN THE FIRE.
ALL TO KEEP YOU ENGAGED AND SATISFIED.
WE'LL SAVE THE SURPRISE FOR THE BIG MOMENT.
LET'S SEE...
WE'LL ALSO NEED A COUPLE OF PEOPLE WITH A TALENT FOR CLOSE-RANGE COMBAT...
...

YES?
WHAT IS IT, BOSS?
YASU!
YASU-DA!!
CAN I EVEN FIND IT IN JAPAN ...?
THIS?
GET THIS, ASAP.
!?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT YOU'D BETTER HOPE SO.

BUT BOSS, THIS IS SERIOUS STUFF.
YOU REALLY WANT ANG—
WHAT PART OF "ASAP" DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
JUST GET YOUR FUCKING HANDS ON SOME. I DON'T CARE HOW.

HE'S REALLY BEEN PUSHING IT SINCE THE FAMILY HEAD WAS HOSPITALIZED...
...
YES, SIR ...

...SEEMS WE'VE GOT AGENTS OF UNREST WITHIN THE FAMILY...
WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE, HE MIGHT BE THE PERFECT SACRIFICE.

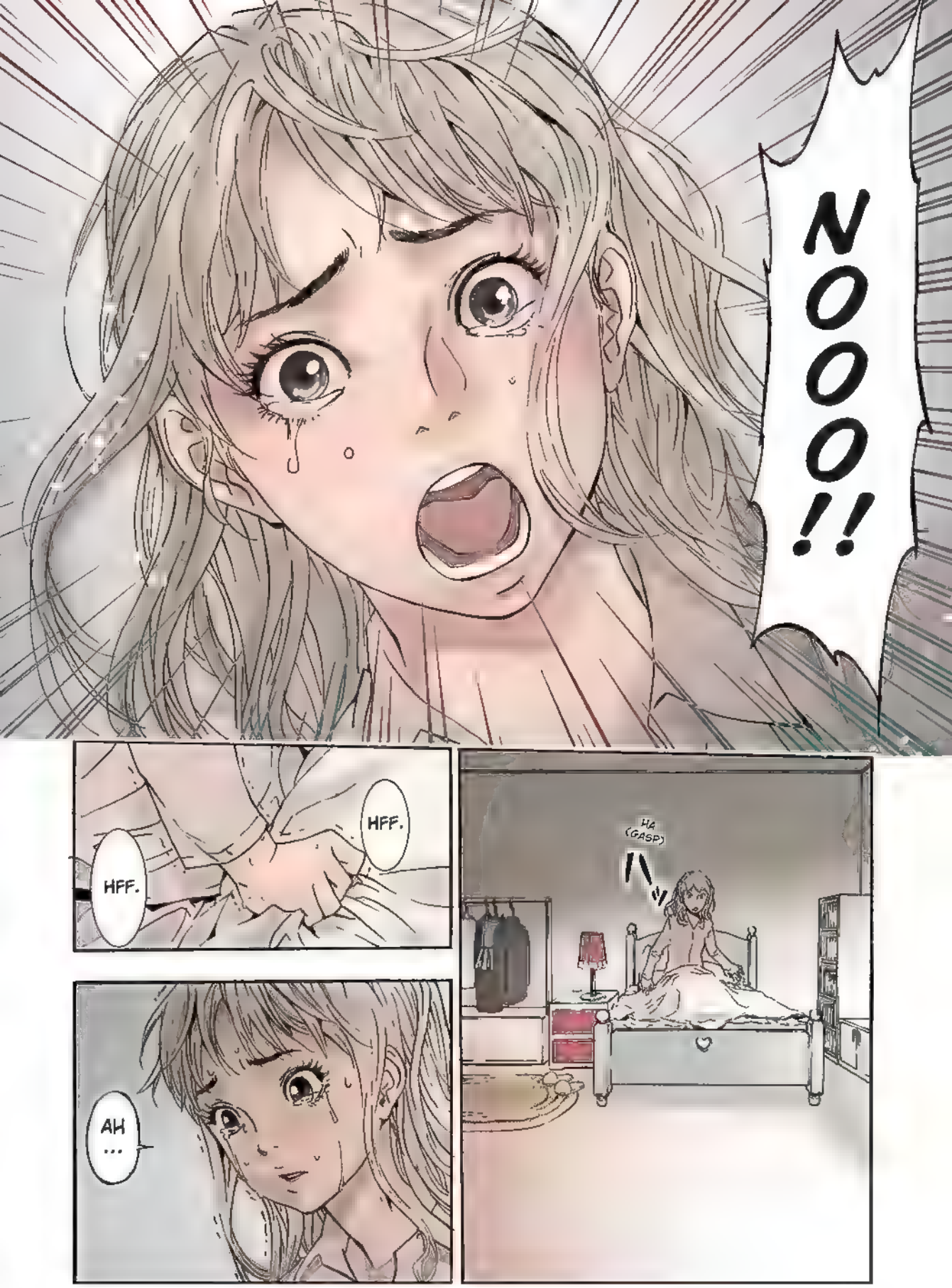
...
...MAMORU-SAN TOOK DOWN TWO OF THE THREE ROBBERS, AND...
...AND THEN, IN AN INSTANT ...

Until
Death
do us
Part

HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
ガクッ
GAKU (SLUMP)
ガチャッ
バババッ
チャッ

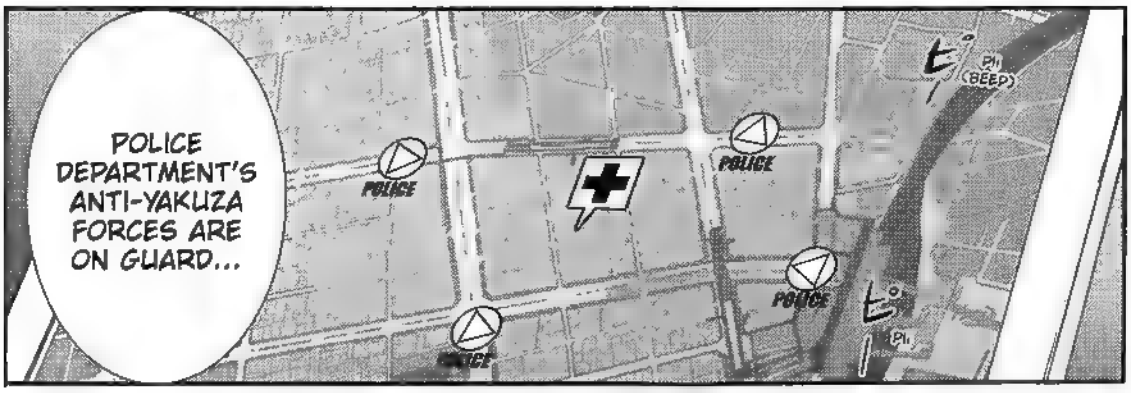
chapter 63

chapter 63


NOOO!!
HFF.
HFF.
HA
(GASP)
AH
...

MEDICAL CENTER
...WHAT'S WRONG ...?
I WANTED TO TEST OUT MY NEW WHEELS ...
.....

SHIT, MAN.
YEAH...I KNOW...
STOP WHINING. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DELAYED THE ORDER BY OVERLOADING IT WITH EXTRA CRAP.
PLUS, THAT TRUCK'S NOT DESIGNED FOR A STAKEOUT.
F3
ACCORDING TO THE NET-WORK'S INTEL, IT'S HIGHLY LIKELY THAT MATOBA WILL BE TARGETED AGAIN.
THESE YAKUZA GROUPS MUST HAVE SOME SERI-OUS BEEF.
HERE'S OUR GUY, RIGHT ON TIME.


POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ANTI-YAKUZA FORCES ARE ON GUARD...
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
PI (BEEP)
PI

IF ANYTHING, THEY'RE STRENGTHENING SECURITY ON HIS FAMILY INSTEAD.

...AND THEY'RE NOT TOO FOCUSED ON THE BOSS.
...BUT THEY'RE PRIORITIZING CONCERN FOR HOSPITAL AND CIVILIAN DAMAGE ...
KATA (TAP)
KATA

HE'S PRACTICALLY BEGGING TO BE ATTACKED.
BUT WHY LEAVE THE HOSPITAL AT THIS HOUR?

HE CAN ARRANGE FOR HIS OWN GUARDS.
MAKES SENSE... HE'S THE HARD-LINE LEADER OF THE KINDAI SYNDICATE.

THEY CHOSE SUNSET—THE PERFECT TIME TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK—BECAUSE THEIR DEFENSES ARE ENTIRELY PREPARED.
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS.
HUH?
WELL, IN THAT CASE, THEY'RE READY TO RUMBLE.
WHO'S EVEN GOING TO BITE IF THEY KNOW IT'S A TRAP?
IN THEIR WORLD, YOU CAN'T KEEP TAKING A BEATING AND MAINTAIN YOUR STANDING.
BUT THIS IS THE TIME WHEN—
OH, WAIT...
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HOW HARUKA WAS ACTING, AREN'T YOU?
...NOW, NOW...
DON'T JUST ASSUME WE CAN TAKE IT EASY...

COME ON! YOU SHOULDN'T BE UP AND WALKING AROUND; YOU HAVE A FEVER!!
I'M GOING WITH YOU!
NO, STOP!
LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE CON-CERNED, BUT...
... SHEESH ...
ガバ
GABA (FLOP)
I HAVE TO GO TODAY!!
FURA (SWOON)
フラ

YOU'RE SICK. STAY HERE AND REST.
ブオオオ
(VRRRM)

WRONG.

...

WHEN THE ENEMY IS CONSTANTLY COMING AFTER US READY TO KILL, THERE'S NO NEED TO CHANGE OUR STRATEGY.

I DO MY BEST, AND IF I FAIL, IT'S JUST PROOF THAT MY SKILLS WEREN'T UP TO THE TASK.
THE DANGER'S ALWAYS THERE.

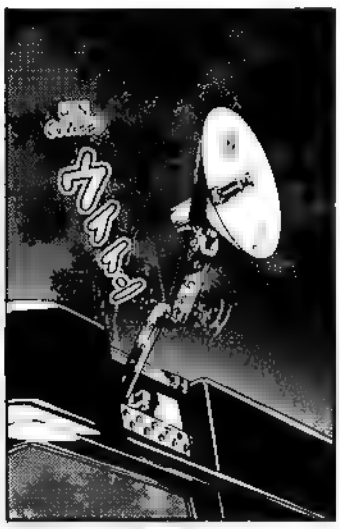
HMM... PERPETUAL COMBAT, EH...?
NO WONDER HE DOESN'T SIT AROUND WAITING FOR HARUKA'S PREDIC-TIONS.
BLOOO (VRRM)
ブオオオ
BUON (VRRM)
ブオーン
JUST AS PLANNED, WE'RE MOVING INTO ACTION FIVE MINUTES LATE.
GACHA (KACHUNK)
ガチャッ

ブォォォ
BLOOO

MATOBA'S HEADING TO HIS MANSION IN THE FUJI FIVE LAKES AREA. NO CHANGE IN ROUTE.

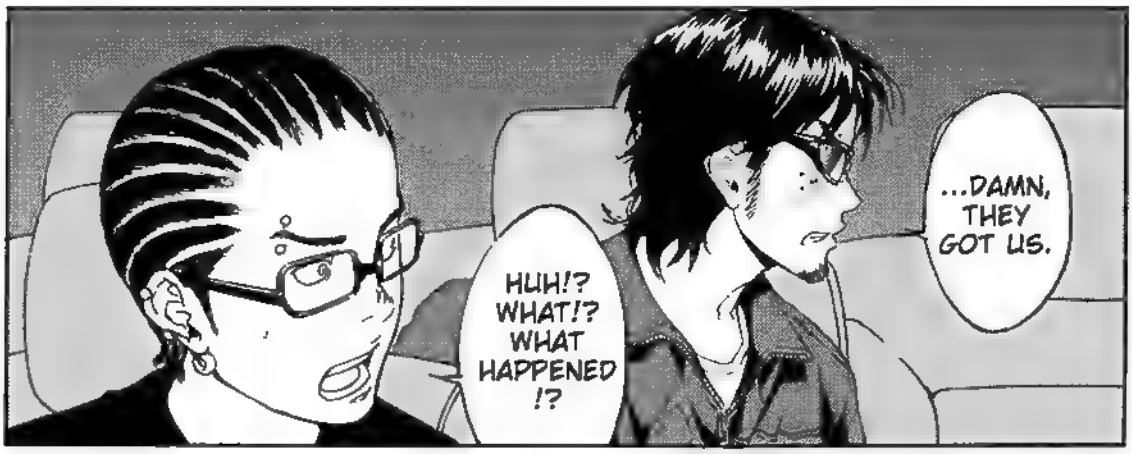
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT...
ブォォォ
BLOOO
ANYONE ELSE TAILING HIM?

6
ブオオオ
ブオオオ


ウィィン

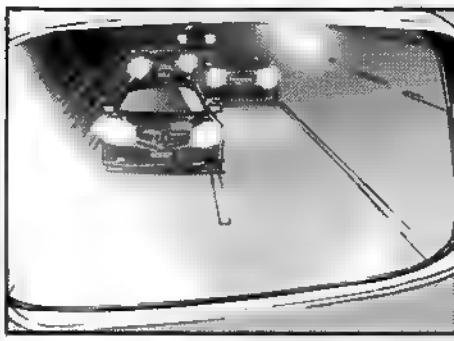
ブオオオ
BUOOO (VRRM)
キルル
KYUP DLR
ブォン
BUON (VNOMM)
NOTHIN' HAPPENED ...
NOPE ...
ブオオオ
BUOOO

WAIT!
SU (SWIP)
DON'T ALTER THE EXTERIOR PAINT COLOR. KEEP GOING STRAIGHT AHEAD.
...UH...
SURE...


HUH!? WHAT!? WHAT HAPPENED !?
...DAMN, THEY GOT US.

WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED ...

BL-OOO
VRRRM



LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE AFTER US THE WHOLE TIME.
THEY'RE GONNA TRY TO CORNER US. JUST KEEP GOING, NO MATTER WHAT!
DON'T YOU DARE STOP THE CAR!!
HUH!?
MAMO-RU!!

Until
Death
do us
Part

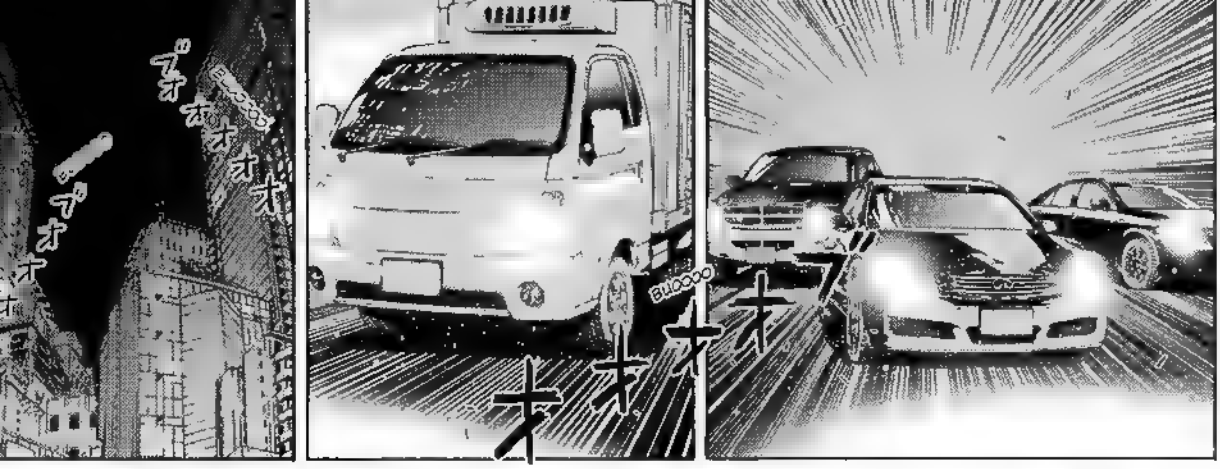
...
HARUKA
chapter 64

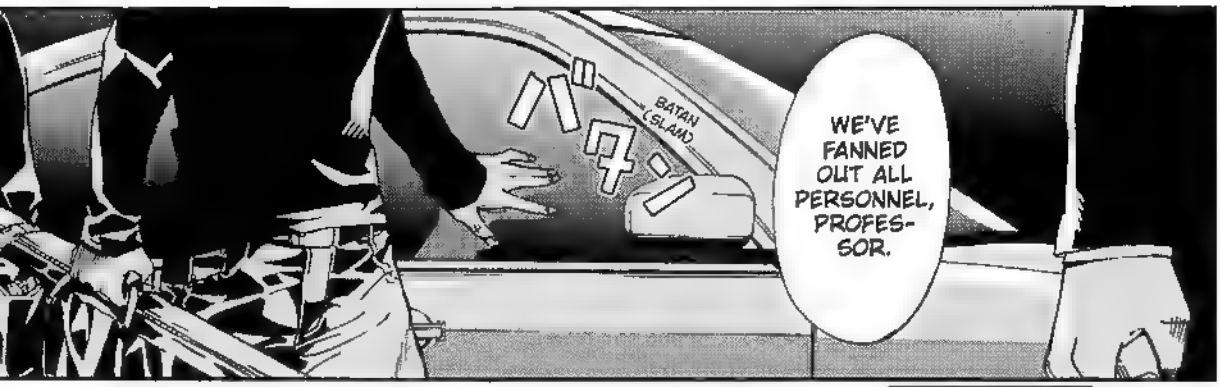
BUOOOOOO (VIBRATION)
GO RIGHT, MAMORU-SAN!
RIGHT!

BA
(SLIDE)
DA
(LEAP)
TA
(CHOP)
KIKIKIKI!
KIKIKIKI
(SCREE)

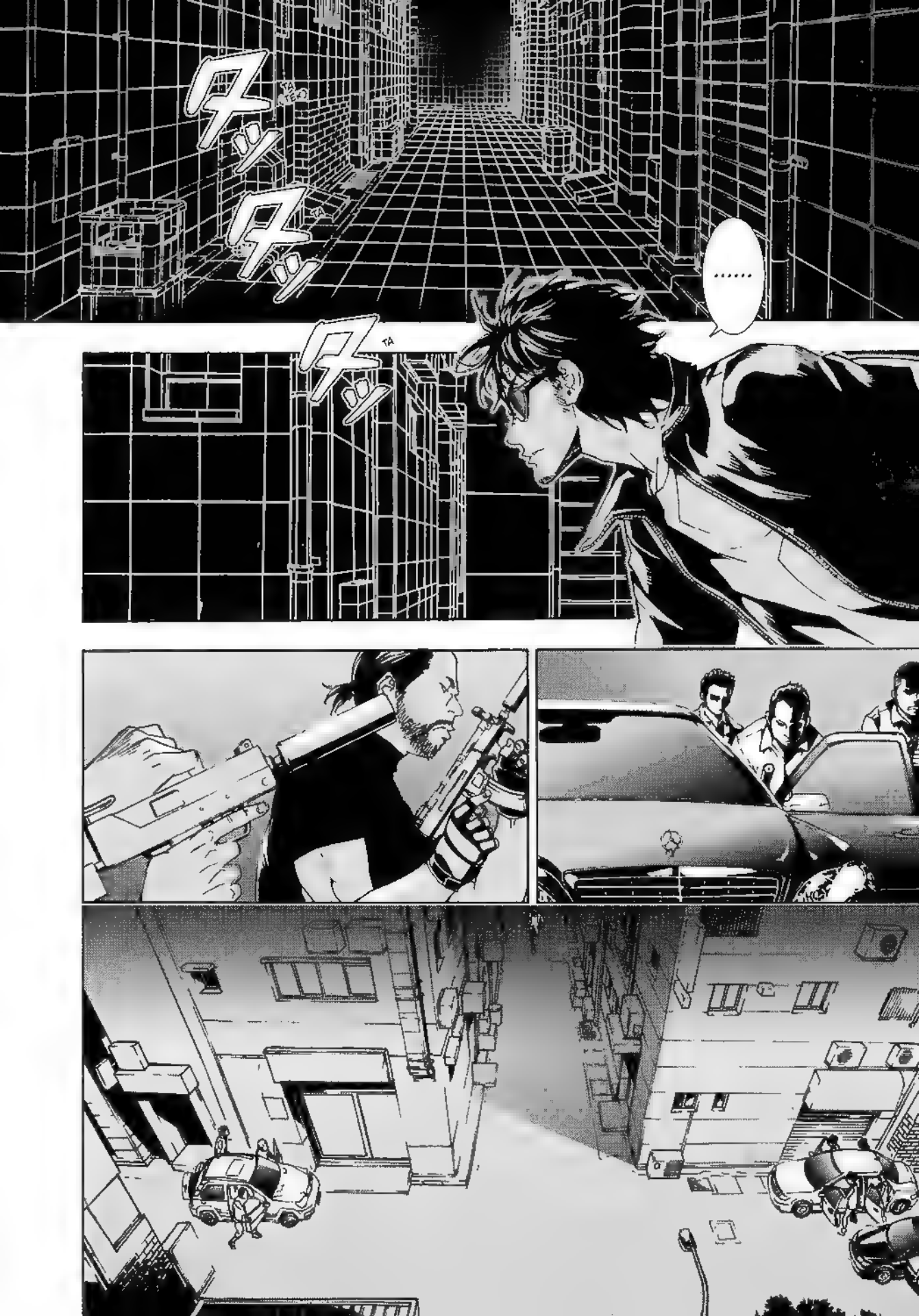
ブォン
BUOOO VRRRMM
ブォォ
ォォォ
KIKIK SCREEE

BUOOO
ブォォォォ


ブオオオオ
BUOOOO
ブオオ
BUOOOO
キキキ
キキキ


バタン
BATAN (SLAM)
WE'VE FANNED OUT ALL PERSONNEL, PROFES-SOR.

UNDER-STOOD.
I'll provide specific placement assignments based on the situation on the ground. Not a single man is to be late to formation.


ダン
ダン
TA
TEO
TA
ダン
TA
.....

THEY'RE CUTTING ME OFF...MUST HAVE SOME-ONE SMART PULLING THE STRINGS...
ZA (SKFF)
PII (BEEP)
PII
PII
KII (KSHH)
PII
BURORORORO (VRRM)
PII
PII
PII
PII

!?
ZA
(STOMP)
ZA
ZA
ZORO
ZORO

ドーン
DON
(BLAM)

AAAH
KIN!
(CLANG)
TA
(TEK)
TA
AHH
...
UNGH
...
HE'S THE ONE WHO'S HURTING YOU!
THAT'S THE GUY!

ドドドド
DO (STOMP)
DO
DO
DO
AAAAAH!!!
ZUBA (SLICE)

!?
RAAAH!!
DO (GLAND)
ZOGA (LAIA)
HYLIN (ZWIP)
AAAH!!

BUBA (SPURT)
DOGO (THWUMP)
SUTAA (SLIDE)

WHAT'S UP WITH THEM...?
BA (POP)
AGH!!
AAAH!!
...RUN...
...RUN AWAY...
THEY'RE NOT NORMAL...

WHAT...IS THAT...?
I'VE GIVEN THEM PHENCY-CLIDINE—PCP.
IT'S ANGEL DUST.
A HALLUCINO-GENIC DRUG THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO BE AN ANESTHETIC.

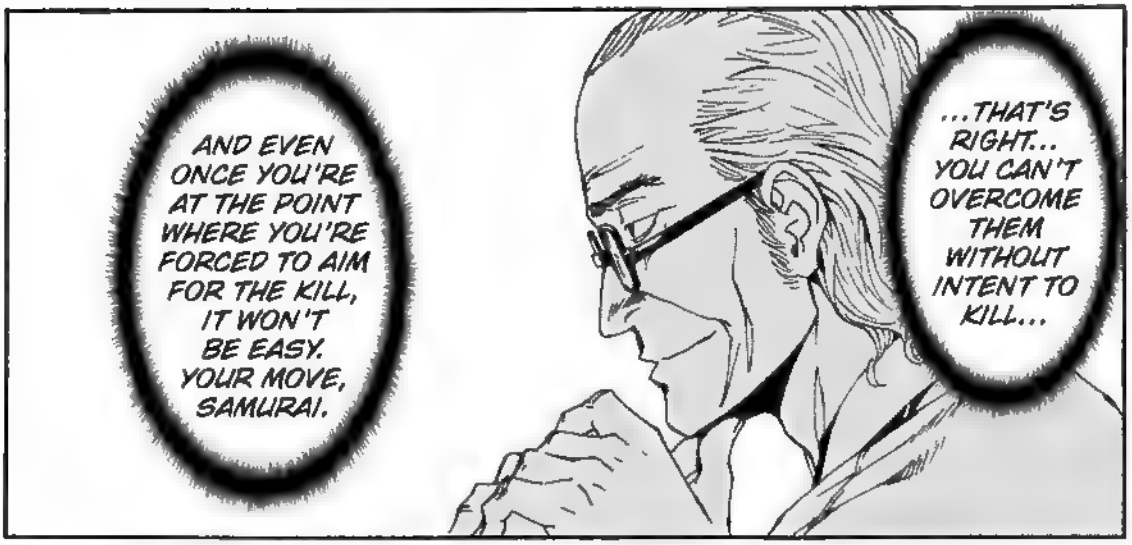
ADDICTS UTILIZE THE VERY UPPER LIMIT OF THEIR STRENGTH AND FIGHT BACK VIOLENTLY AGAINST ANY ATTEMPTS TO SUBDUE THEM.
POLICE HAVE SHOT MEN ON PCP DOZENS OF TIMES BEFORE THE ADDICT FINALLY DIES.
ITS HALLUCINATORY SIDE EFFECTS ARE QUITE POWERFUL.
...
OF COURSE, NOT EVERYONE EXHIBITS THIS BEHAVIOR.
SOME ANECDOTES EVEN TELL OF HULK-LIKE POWERS— MADMEN RIPPING ARMS OUT OF THEIR SOCKETS AND FLIPPING OVER CARS SINGLE-HANDEDLY.
...
ESPECIALLY IN THIS CASE, WHERE THEY'VE BEEN CONVINCED THAT THEIR SELF-INFLICTED STAB WOUNDS ARE ACTUALLY THE WORK OF THAT SAMURAI.
BUT COMBINED WITH HYPNOTHERAPY, IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE EASY TO TURN THEM INTO MINDLESS ANIMALS WITHOUT FEAR OF DEATH.

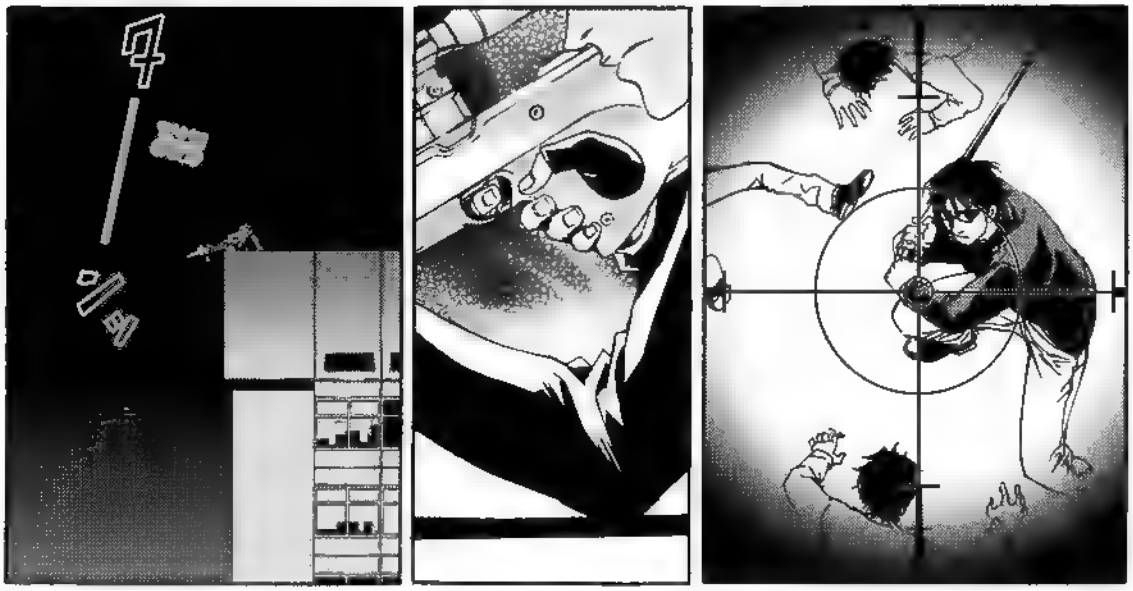
FEAR, HATRED, AND VIOLENT URGES.
ALL THE INGREDIENTS YOU NEED TO MAKE A FEARLESS KILLING MACHINE.

...

I DESIGNED THIS LITTLE EVENT JUST FOR YOU. I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.

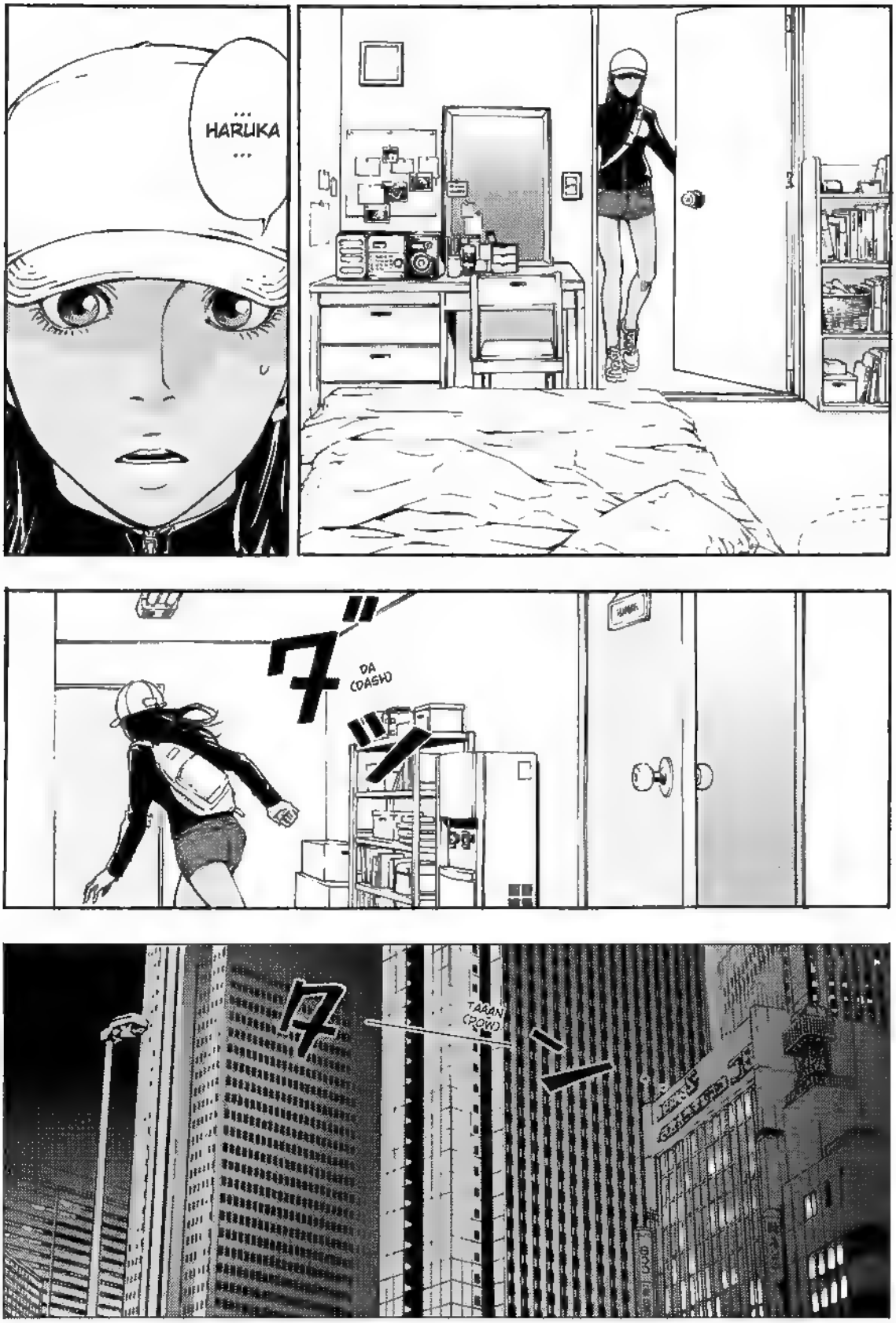
I FINALLY SEE THE POINT OF THIS EXERCISE.


...THAT'S RIGHT... YOU CAN'T OVERCOME THEM WITHOUT INTENT TO KILL...
AND EVEN ONCE YOU'RE AT THE POINT WHERE YOU'RE FORCED TO AIM FOR THE KILL, IT WON'T BE EASY. YOUR MOVE, SAMURAI.



A TRAP !?
That's right! This is what they've been going for the whole time!!
The best I can do is try to barrel my way through the block-ade...
NO, DON'T !!
I'VE GOT TWO CARS RIGHT ON MY ASS!
I CAN'T SWING AROUND TO HELP MAMORU OUT!

OKAY, BUT—!
I'LL COVER HIM! FORGET ABOUT MAMORU AND BUY ME SOME TIME!
IF THEY WERE THAT PREPARED, THEY MUST HAVE A PLAN FOR AN ARMORED VAN LIKE YOURS!!
JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!!
HARUKA


...
HARUKA
...
DA
CRASH
TAAAN
CROW

BO
(BDHH)
ZAZA
(ZSHH)
ZUZAA
(SLIDE)

UGH...
...AND A SNIPER ON TOP OF ALL THAT...? THIS'LL BE TOUGH...
KIN (CLANG)
BUT I NEVER SENSED AN INTENT TO KILL...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN!?

MR. WISEMAN WAS RIGHT. THESE MARTIAL ARTISTS AREN'T TO BE TRIFLED WITH...
MY AIM WAS PERFECT... DID HE DODGE OUT OF THE BULLET'S PATH?
BANG CHK-CHUNK
...MAMORU-SAN...
BUGOGOO (VRRRR)

Until
Death
do us
Part

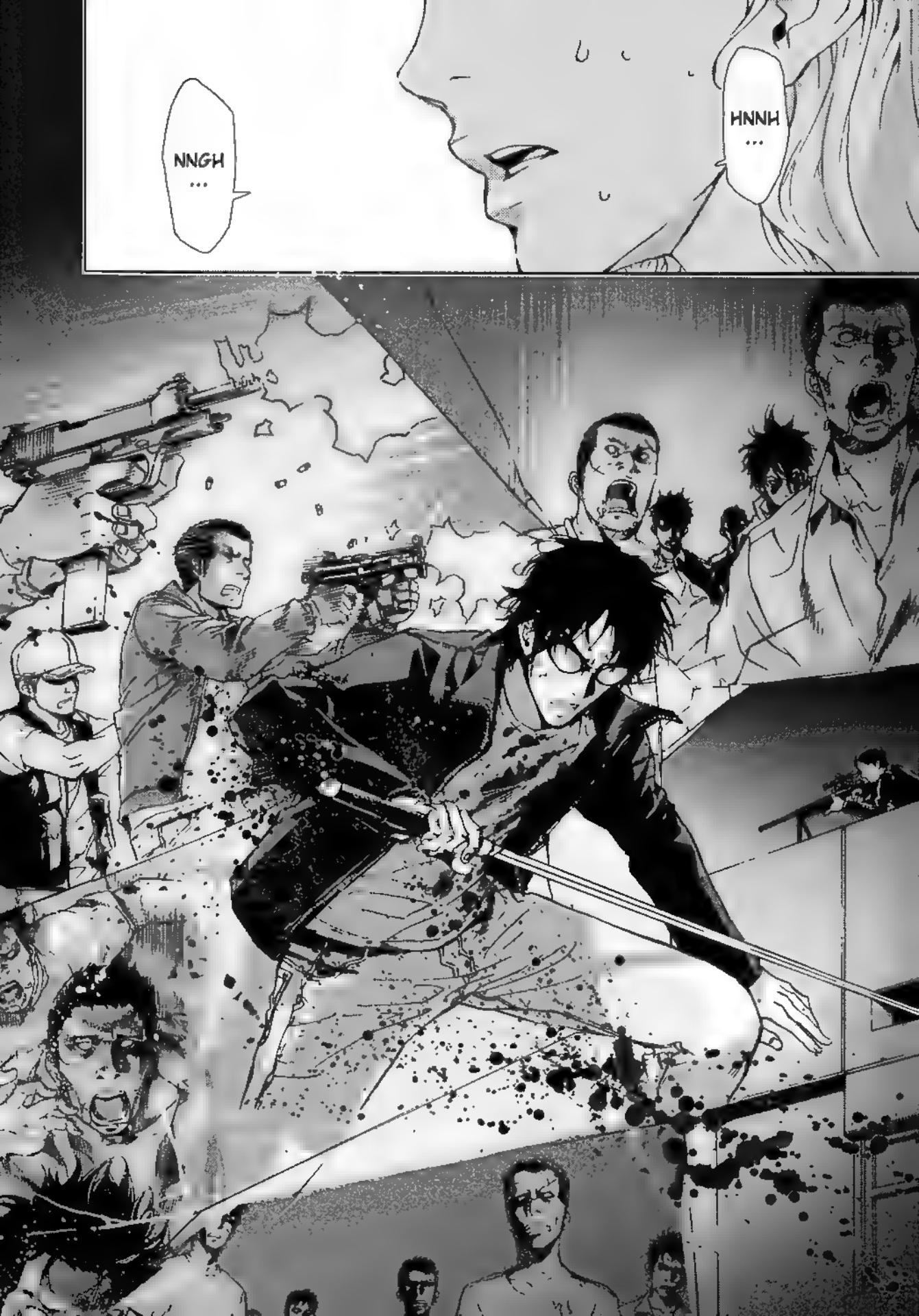
PAPER: APOLOGY FORM
DEPARTMENT NAME
—DEEPLY REGRET MY FAILURE—
—FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR—
始末書
KURU (SPIN)
所属
氏名
...FUCK THIS...
POLICE DEPT.
HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO EXPLAIN WHAT WENT ON THIS MORNING?
YOU'LL GET THROUGH IT QUICKER BY USING YOUR PEN, NOT YOUR MOUTH.
PURURURU
PURURURURU (RRRING)

WHAT!?
H-HEY!
!?
HUH?
WHO IS THIS?
HELLO?
FIRST INVESTI-GATIVE DEP—
(BEEP)
ピッ
THEY ASKED FOR YOU.
SAID A SAMURAI WITH A KATANA IS RAISING HELL.
WHAT IS IT?
!?

chapter 65

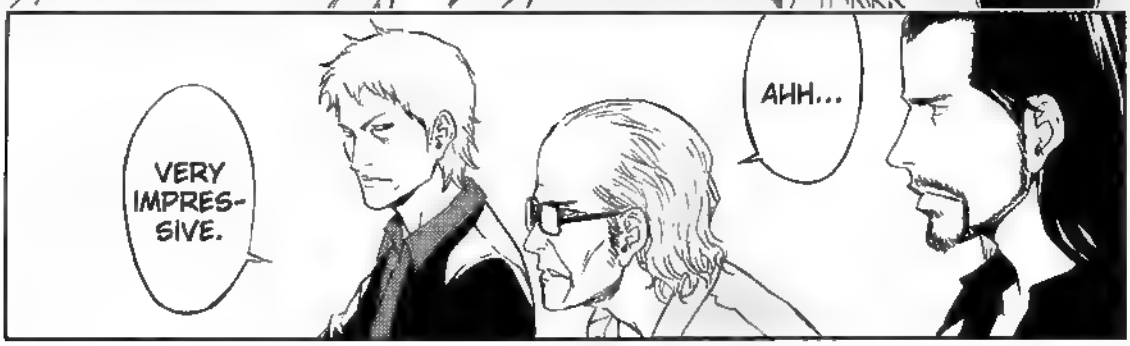
KIKIKIKI (SCREECH)
BLOOD (VROOM)
KIKII
Igawa, can you hear me!?
JULIET !?
I COULD BLAST PAST THESE FOOLS ON THE HIGHWAY...
DAMN ...

I'M ON MY WAY THERE.
ブオオオオ…
!?
HA-RUKA'S GONE !?
THERE'S ONE PROB-LEM...
ブオオオ

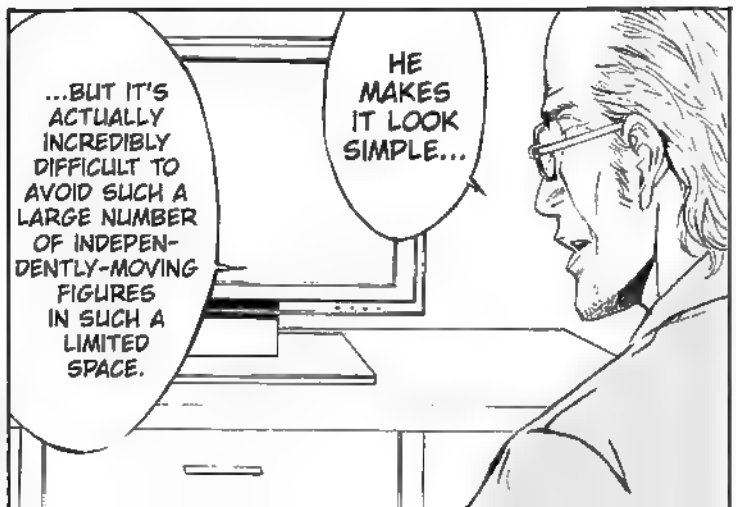

NNGH
...
HNNH
...

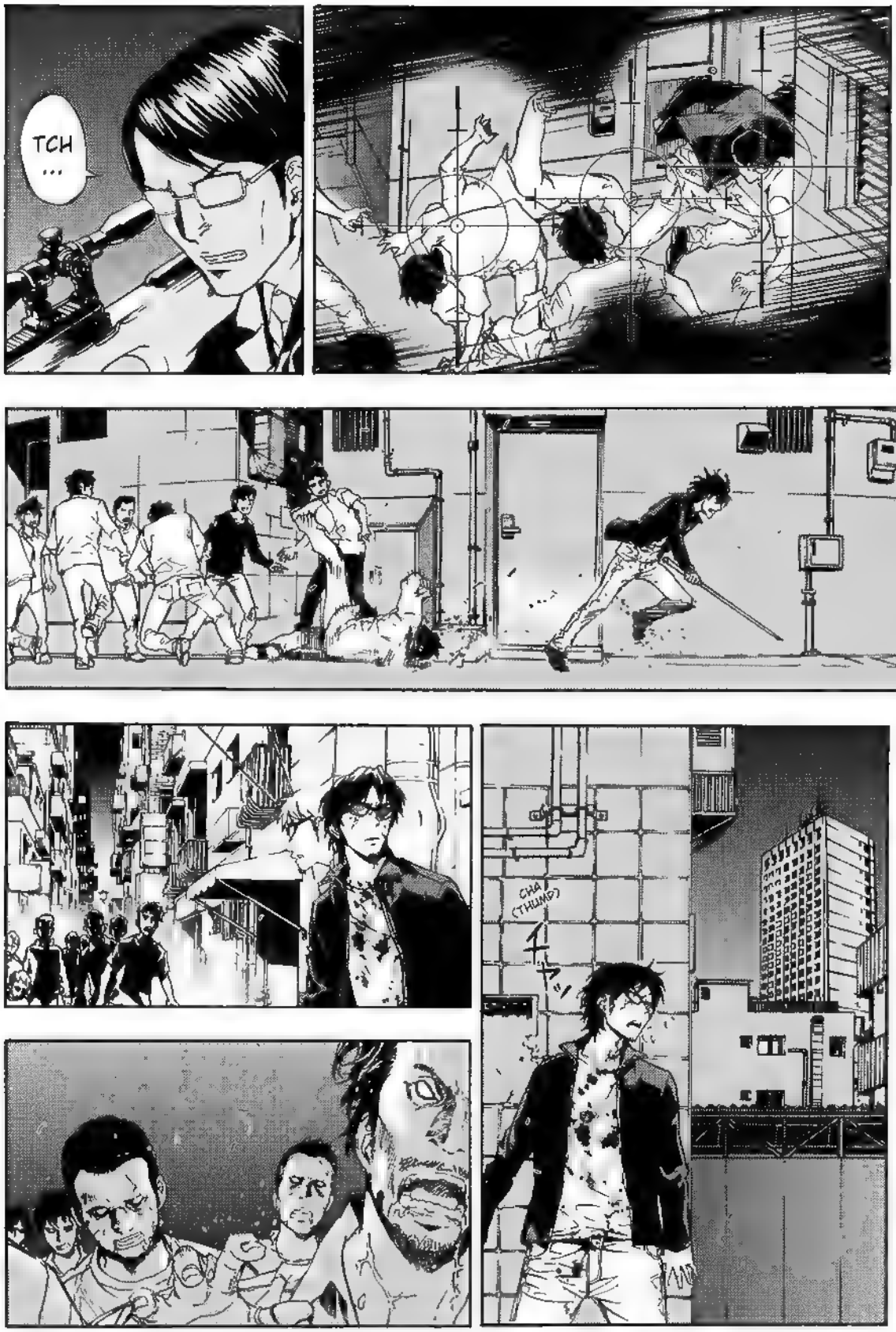
...
NNG...
I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH CUTTING CRIMINALS TO PIECES...
...BUT IF THESE ARE JUST POOR DRUG ADDICTS DEVELOPED FOR THIS STUNT, THAT COMPLICATES THINGS...
TCH...

KI
(GLARE)
DA
(DASH)


VERY IMPRES-SIVE.
AHH...

THAT'S A STUNT ONLY POSSIBLE BY PERFECTLY TRACKING ALL TARGETS AT ONCE.
RRGH ...


...BUT IT'S ACTUALLY INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT TO AVOID SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF INDEPEN-DENTLY-MOVING FIGURES IN SUCH A LIMITED SPACE.
HE MAKES IT LOOK SIMPLE...


TCH
...
CHA
(THUMP)

TRAPPED ON ALL SIDES...
...EXCEPT FOR ONE...
OH, WHAT THE HELL.
IF THEY'RE GONNA GANG UP ON ME FROM ALL DIRECTIONS ...
...MIGHT AS WELL JUST BURST THROUGH THE MIDDLE!!
DADA (DASH)

キン
KIN
キンッ
KIN (KTING)

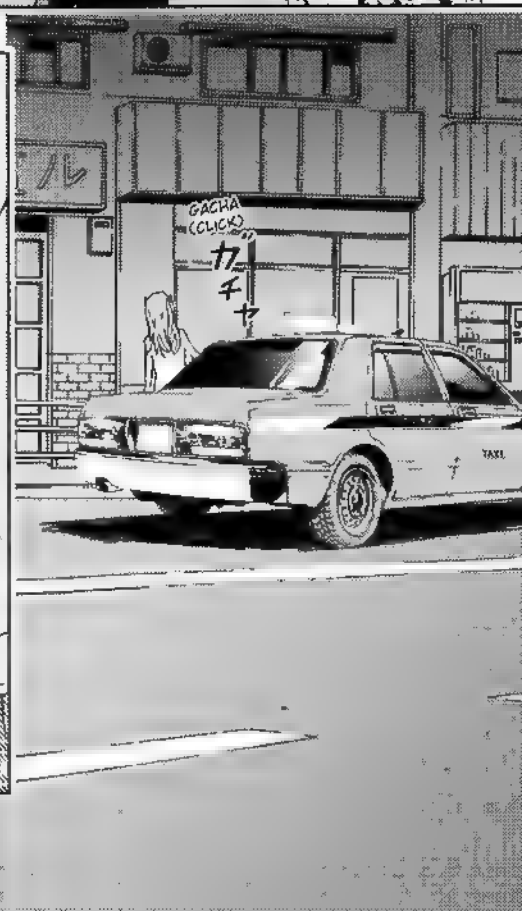
ガラ
GARA (CRABL)
ガ GARA
ラ
バカッ
BAKA (CRUKK)

DOKA (THWAM)
THERE HE IS!
DAN (THOOM)
AAAH!
<< FIRING POINT

GA (RATTA)
GA
ガッ
TA (TEK)
タタタタ
!

HAAH!
PAAH
PAAH!

YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE!?
UM, MISS?


GACHA (CLICK)
カチャ
TAXI

...
フラッ
FURA (WOBBLE)
...
ボロ (BLOOD)
ボロ (BLOOD)

...DAMN... THERE ARE MORE OF THEM ...?
SPLENDID ...

...HE DIDN'T ARRANGE FOR THIS EXERCISE SOLELY TO JUDGE THE MAN'S FIGHTING SKILLS FOR HIMSELF, DID HE...?
AFTER BEING CHASED AROUND THIS MUCH, I WAS EXPECTING THAT HE'D BE COMPLETELY TRAPPED.
SO... WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?
...SO FAR, FOURTEEN ARE DOWN.
BUT HE'S STILL WELL ENOUGH OFF TO FIGHT BACK.
GOOD, GOOD.
KEEP DISTANCE AND TRY TO LIMIT FRIENDLY ATTRITION TO A MINIMUM.

HAAH!
HAAH!
ズ
ZUZU (DRAG)
ズ

GUI (PUSH)
ZUGAGA (CRUMBLE)
GARA (CRAASH)
GARA
DA (LEAP)
HAAH!
HAAH!

THEY'LL GRIND ME DOWN, NEVER GOING FOR THE KILLING BLOW, AND WHEN THE FATIGUE SETS IN, THEY'LL FINISH ME IN ONE FELL SWOOP.
IT'S A BORING STRATEGY, BUT RELIABLE.
...
...THEY'RE DEFINITELY TRYING TO TIRE ME OUT...
DOSA (THUMP)
I'M TOTALLY SUR-ROUNDED.
ej
Chocola

コンコン
!?
パキッ
WHA
—!?

YOU MORON !!
DAM-MIT!!
SAGOM
PING!
BECAUSE... BECAUSE IF YOU DIE...
...I CAN'T GO ON ANYWAY ...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIRE-FIGHT!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU WANDER IN HERE AND THEY GET THEIR HANDS ON YOU!
YOU'RE JUST GETTING UNDER-FOOT!

WHAT !?
IF I'M ONLY IN THE WAY... JUST KILL ME...
IF IT MEANS FALLING INTO THEIR HANDS...
キュッ
KYU (SQUEEZE)
...I'D RATHER YOU DO IT YOURSELF ...

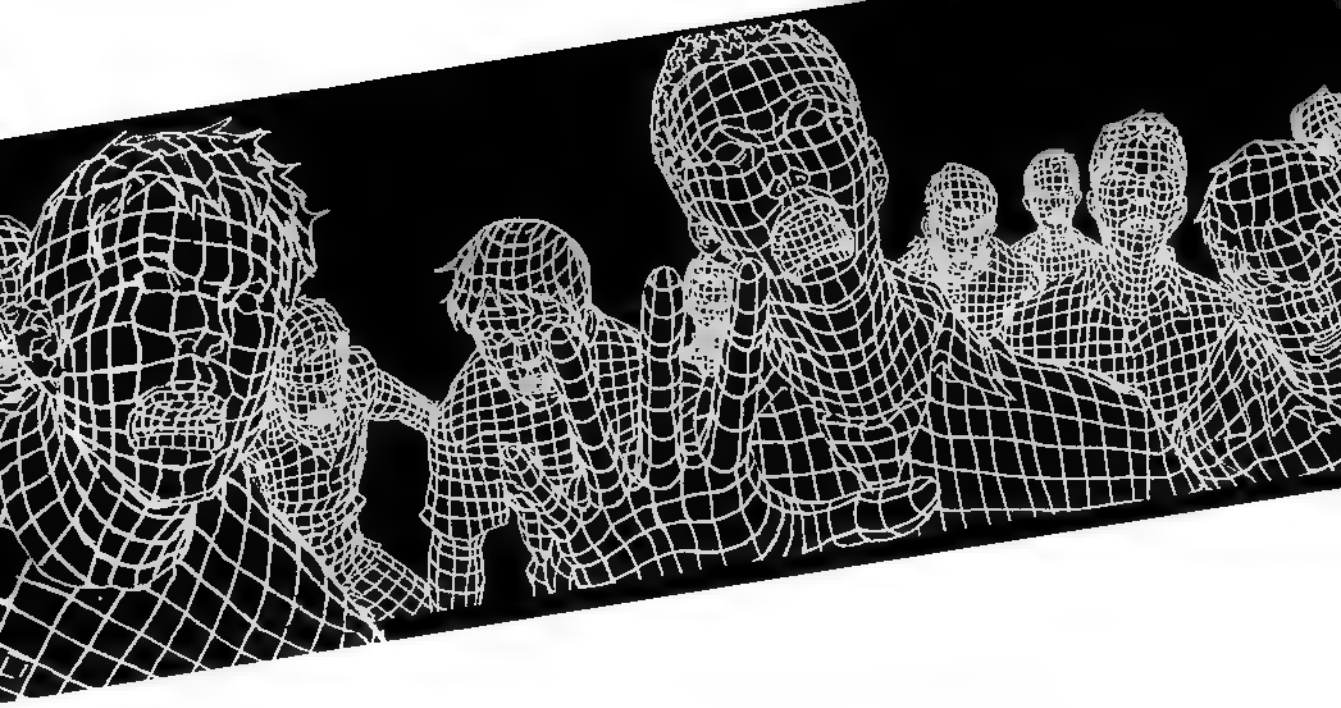
PLEASE
...

PA
(FLICK)

ZA
(MARCH)
ZA
ZA

THIS IS IT...
GYUU
(SQUEEZE)
TCH!

until death do us part ❹ - end



Translation Notes

Common Honorifics
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
***-sama*:** Conveys great respect, may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
***-senpai*:** A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
***-sensei*:** A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Yen conversion: While exchange rates fluctuate daily, a convenient conversion estimation is about ¥100 to 1 USD

Page 121
Pachinko: A Japanese game that resembles pinball but is played vertically rather than horizontally. Although gambling is illegal in Japan, pachinko exists in a grey area, as players win cheap prizes that are exchanged at a nearby "pawn" store that will pay cash for the prizes, thus circumventing the law. Pachinko balls are small, somewhere between a pinball and a ball bearing.

Page 161
Namahage: A type of bogeyman called upon in areas of northern Japan to frighten children into behaving properly. A common ritual around the new year involves men dressing up with scary masks and brandishing knives, visiting all the homes in town and shouting, "Are there any naughty children inside?"

Page 226
"Gran Turismo": A popular ultra-realistic racing simulation game published by Sony for the PlayStation.

Page 316
Yoi Ocha: A parody of well-known bottled green tea brand "Oi Ocha." The name "Oi Ocha" means "Hey! Tea" in a way one might order at a café. By changing it to "*yoi*," the name sounds more like "good tea."

Page 365
Fuji Five Lakes: An area at the foot of Mount Fuji known for its five lakes, all caused by eruptions of the mountain.

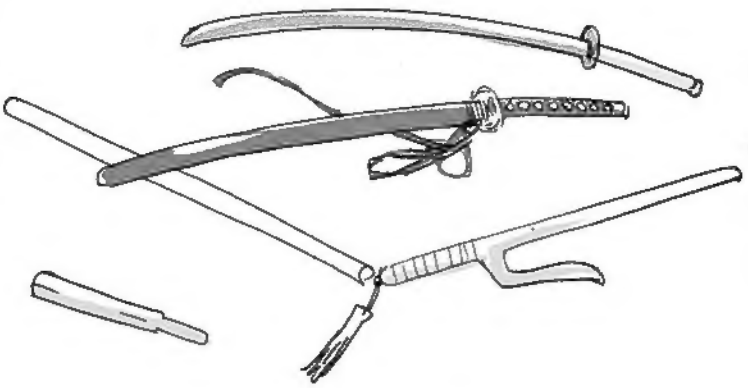
OMAKE PAGE

SURI-CHAN... I'M TORN.
I THINK... I MIGHT QUIT BEING A MANGA ARTIST...
HUH!? WHY?

I DUNNO...
...I THINK I'VE AWAKENED TO THE WAY OF THE TRUE MAN.
I GET THE FEELING I'M MORE SUITED TO A LIFE OF COMBAT.
OKAY, SURE.
...

MASTER SHIOZAKI WITH A TERRIFYING GLEAM IN HIS EYES
I WENT TO THE SUIMOUKAI DOJO OF THE MUGAI SCHOOL FOR SOME RESEARCH!
THE MUGAI SCHOOL IS A STYLE OF SWORDFIGHTING MEANT FOR PRACTICAL COMBAT USE!
THE MASTER DEMONSTRATED A BASIC MAKIWARA CUT AND ALLOWED ME TO HOLD THE SWORD AND TRY IT OUT FOR MYSELF, AND...
MAN, HE'S NERVOUS.
YEAH.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I GOT TO HOLD A REAL SWORD... AND HOW HEAVY AND SHARP THEY ARE! I COULD TELL THAT I WAS HOLDING A TRULY DANGEROUS "WEAPON" IN MY HANDS.
UM!
AH!
I JUST!
I, UH
I DIDN'T!
YEAH, YEAH, SETTLE DOWN.
HUH!?
...I SPLIT THAT SUCKER IN TWO.

I'VE NEVER HAD ANY LEGITIMATE TRAINING IN MARTIAL ARTS OR WEAPONS IN MY LIFE.



AT THE SCHOOL'S HOME DOJO, I GOT TO SEE NOT JUST SWORD DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT ALSO THE JUTTE AND SHORT STAFF.

IT WAS A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE!

THANK YOU TO THE TEACHERS FOR THEIR KIND AND THOROUGH EXPLANATIONS, AND TO ALL THE STUDENTS OF THE DOJO!

I WAS ESPECIALLY BLOWN AWAY BY THE MODEL DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE SCHOOL MASTER!

WHEN I DRAW MANGA, I'VE ALWAYS USED PHOTOS AND VIDEO FOR REFERENCE, BUT THE WORLD OF ACTUAL MARTIAL ARTS WAS COMPLETELY THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I IMAGINED.

HE LOOKED DEAD SERIOUS.

...I'M GIVING UP ON THE MANGA LIFE TO BE A WARRIOR.

SORRY...

HEY, GET BACK HERE! I'LL KILL YOU!!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEM!

SO I BET THE ACTION SCENES ARE GOING TO BE WAY BETTER NEXT VOLUME!

HUH?

SHE'S A PALE, SLENDER, WELL-ADJUSTED YOUNG LADY FROM A NICE FAMILY...
NICE TO MEET YOU.
HELLO.
WELCOME, TAURUS-CHAN!
FINALLY, WE HAVE A NEW ASSISTANT ...
AND DESPITE HER SIZE, SHE EATS TWICE AS MUCH AS ANYONE ELSE!
HEY! DON'T TELL THEM THAT!
IT TURNS OUT SHE'S JUST PALE BECAUSE SHE NEVER LEAVES HER ROOM.
...OR SO I THOUGHT.
WELL, I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN MY POWERED-UP STATE IN THE NEXT VOLUME!!
TELL HIM I'VE GONE ON A WARRIOR'S JOURNEY!
SENSEI! WE HAVE A CALL FROM THE EDITOR...
OKAY! BUT I'M HUNGRY, SO YOU HAVE TO PREPARE SUPPER.
PLEASE STICK AROUND.
BUT ANYWAY ...
I'M JEALOUS THAT SHE CAN EAT SO MUCH WITHOUT GAINING WEIGHT.
THERE HE GOES WITH THE SCRAPING AND BOWING AGAIN!

Art Staff
Suri (26) ♀: Chief Assistant
Parusiaren (23) ♀: Screentones & Background Art
Taurus (24) ♀: Screentones & Background Art

Military Advisor
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)

SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART 4

Hiroshi Takashige
DOUBLE-S

Translation: Stephen Paul
Lettering: AndWorld Design

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